

## Poll tax shock for Thatcher

# Bring back the rating system, say 35 per cent

By Nicholas Wood and Robin Oakley

A RETURN to domestic rates is the most popular solution among the public to the dilemma the Government faces over how to relieve the political pain inflicted by the poll tax, according to an exclusive MORI poll for *The Times*.

In the wake of the confusion generated by last week's disclosures of the depth of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's concern about the reception accorded to the community charge, the survey shows that 35 per cent of people would prefer to go back to the old rating system, which she and her ministers have maintained is now discredited.

Equally surprising is the finding that nearly as many people—29 per cent—believe that a local income tax would be the best way of financing local government—the policy espoused solely by the Liberal Democrats among the main political parties.

However, both the poll tax and Labour's alternative—the “roof tax” combining property values with ability to pay—remain relatively unpopular. Only 12 per cent of the electorate favour the community charge and only 15 per cent would prefer a roof tax.

The disclosures, making further grim reading for Mrs Thatcher and her ministers, come three days before the council elections in which more than 5,000 seats are at stake across the country, and the Conservatives face losses of 350 of their 1,570 seats on

current voting intentions. She will not be encouraged either, by MORI's findings that Labour enjoys a 34-point lead among those certain to vote in those elections, that her popularity among Tory supporters is at an all-time low at 38 per cent dissatisfied and that Labour is enjoying its highest-ever level of support among trade unionists.

The town hall results will be seen as a national verdict on the poll tax and the Prime Minister's increasingly uncertain hold on her party.

If the Conservatives do as badly as predicted, particularly in the high-profile Tory boroughs of Wandsworth, Westminster and Bradford, which have all set their community charge at rock-bottom levels, speculation about her leadership and the need for even more drastic surgery on the poll tax than envisaged in Whitehall, is bound to intensify.

The Conservatives have invested great hopes in the finding of a private poll that 71 per cent of people agreed with the principle of a poll tax paid by every adult. There are also signs from opinion polls and Tory canvass returns that the results in the three councils may buck the trend.

Yesterday, Mr Kenneth Baker, the Tory chairman, signalled his recognition that the fate of the community charge and the Prime Minister's leadership could be decided in these three areas.

He has ordered an all-out effort in the three councils, held by wafer-thin Tory majorities, in order to justify the Government's case that it is the level of poll-tax charges, not the underlying principle of a flat-rate charge, that has angered the electorate and torpedoed the Conservatives' standing in the opinion polls.

At a key meeting today with his senior staff, Mr Baker is expected to order a newspaper advertising blitz in the run-up to polling on Thursday. This will be backed by a political broadcast on the eve of polling highlighting the case that “Conservative councils cost you less”. Mr Baker will also lead intensive campaigning by senior ministers over the next three days, focusing on the three low-spending Tory councils and neighbouring Labour authorities with high poll-tax levels.

He will be in Leeds and Bradford tomorrow and will wind up the campaign in Wandsworth in Abbotsley Road, where residents on one

side of the street pay £148 to Wandsworth council—the lowest in the country—while those living opposite pay £548 to Labour-run Lambeth.

Mr David Hunt, the Minister for Local Government, will seek to make the same point today in Westminster, contrasting its £195 bill with next-door Camden's £534.

Other ministers planning to campaign in London include Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr Tom King and Mr Chris Patten. In what should prove an intriguing spectacle, they will be joined by Mr Michael Heseltine, who will take to the streets in Hackney and Islington tomorrow.

The former Cabinet minister vetoed the poll tax when Secretary of State for the Environment and condemned it when it went through Parliament. Much of his popularity on the Tory benches as a possible replacement for Mrs Thatcher derives from this opposition, but he will need to deploy all his skills to avoid the charge of disloyalty when he takes to the hustings. Mr Heseltine acknowledges that the future of the tax will be affected by voting in the three boroughs.

Today, Mr Neil Kinnock will seek to exploit the “shambles” of the Government's attempts to reassure voters and Tory MPs that it is carrying out a fundamental review, possibly to the point of introducing a Bill.

Yesterday Labour and SLD leaders demanded that the Government “come clean” before voters go to the polls.

Senior Conservative sources maintained, however, that the publicity surrounding the Prime Minister's resolve to make changes to the community charge, amplified by Mr Mark Lennox-Boyd, her Parliamentary Private Secretary, in private conversations with Tory MPs, could make a “decisive contribution” to Thursday's poll by defusing the determination of former Tory supporters to register a protest vote.

Dr Jack Cunningham, the Opposition campaign co-ordinator, said: “It is not good enough for Government sources to hint that there may—or may not—be changes in the pipeline on the poll tax. Voters deserve to know now.”

Mr Paddy Ashdown, who will be cheered by the level of support for a local income tax, called for a three-way televised debate on the issue.

MORI poll details, page 7

## Turkey seizes more Iraq-bound pipes

By Geoff King

CUSTOMS officials in Turkey said yesterday that they had seized two more lorries loaded with steel pipes suspected of being parts of a large Iraqi “super-gun”.

The vehicles were being held at Kapikule on the border with Bulgaria while the pipes were examined to see if they had military applications.

The semi-official Anatolian news agency quoted Mr Peter Todoroff, one of the detained Bulgarian lorry drivers, as saying: “My job is to take these (pipes) to Iraq.” British Customs said that they had not been expecting any further

shipments on route for Iraq and knew nothing about the lorries.

Whitehall officials have confirmed that Mrs Thatcher has raised the issue of Mr Paul Ashwell, the lorry driver being held in Greece, with Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek Prime Minister, during the European Community summit in Dublin.

Mr Gordon Brown, Labour trade and industry spokesman, called on the Government to tell “the full truth” of what it knew about the gun to help Mr Ashwell, who was charged in Greece last week.



How to beat the blockade: Protesters riding through the centre of Vilnius yesterday in a show of defiance against Moscow's sanctions

## Britain's heatwave puts Spain in shade

By Lin Jenkins

THE first hopepipe ban heralded the true start of summer as southern England basked in temperatures higher than those in Spanish holiday resorts.

Temperatures in London yesterday reached 22 degrees Centigrade (72 degrees Fahrenheit) compared with 17 degrees Centigrade (63 Fahrenheit) on the rainy Costa del Sol. The highest temperature in London in April last year was 16 degrees Centigrade (61 Fahrenheit).

Most places south of a line from south-west Wales to the northern Wash had a hot, sunny day. While the unusually fine weather brought thousands of daytrippers on to the roads, water authorities and farmers voiced fears of another serious drought.

Much of England had a third or less of the normal annual rainfall last month, and in parts of the South-east the figure has fallen below 10 per cent. The figures for April are unlikely to show much improvement.

In parts of Kent, where the hopepipe ban comes into effect on Friday just weeks after the last one was lifted, reservoirs, rivers and ground water levels are at record lows. Bewell Water reservoir is less than 70 per cent full, at a time when the level should be well over 90 per cent.

In the area around Gravesend, Maidstone, Sittingbourne and the Isle of Sheppey, where 170,000 homes are affected by the ban, 70 per cent of supplies come from underground sources.

“The problem is that we have had a dry couple of years and we are simply not getting the rainfall to replenish supplies. We need an awful lot of rain to solve the problem this year and to prevent it happening again next year,” the Kent division of Southern Water said.

The dry summer of last year, coupled with low winter rainfall in some areas, means there will be further drought restrictions if the weather remains dry.

In north Kent, March rain—Continued on page 24, col 3

## Moscow and Vilnius edge towards a deal

From Anatol Lieven, Riga, Latvia

THE Soviet and Lithuanian Governments moved closer to an agreement yesterday after President Gorbachev's press spokesman said that Moscow would insist only on the “freezing”, not the “revocation”, of Lithuanian independence.

The Kremlin spokesman's remarks, made in response to a French and West German suggestion to this effect, were welcomed by President Landsbergis of Lithuania. The Soviet economic sanctions against Lithuania were also apparently eased yesterday, according to reports from the Aotias glue and fertilizer plant at Jonava. Managers there said they had been told that most of their normal supplies of natural gas, their basic raw material, will be restored to day. Supplies will be raised from 0.6 million cubic metres daily to 3 million, or two-thirds of the normal total. The workers laid off at Jonava last week will now return to work.

The Soviet move seems in accordance not just with the general easing of tension, but also with what has been a general Soviet policy of trying to keep “all union” factories in Lithuania going by continuing to provide them with essential raw materials. One reason for this has been that the factories in question often play an essential part in production processes across the Soviet Union. The factories, in return, effectively decided to ignore Lithuanian government orders and continue to export via their ministries in Moscow.

President Landsbergis's comment that the proposal to “suspend the reinforcement of the decision on independence of March 11 is constructive and worthy of careful consideration” suggests that an agreement may now be near. There had been suggestions from Lithuania for almost two weeks, in response to unofficial suggestions from Moscow, that the republic would be willing to “suspend the implementation of some or all of the laws stemming from the declaration of independence. The key ones from the Soviet

point of view concern Lithuanian military service, Soviet property in Lithuania and Soviet citizens within Lithuania.

A question still hanging over the prospect of compromise is whether Moscow may still demand a suspension of the declaration of independence, or whether it will content itself with something that can be called a “suspension of the independence process”.

Another question raised would be that of the effects of a compromise on Latvia and Estonia, whose huge Russian populations, some think, make a continued formal link with the Soviet Union almost inevitable. A partial climb-down by Vilnius may strengthen the hands of those Latvian deputies suggesting that the expected Latvian declaration of independence later this week should be accompanied by an offer to Moscow of a loose “confederation”.

The key ones from the Soviet

## Another hostage ‘to be freed’

From Juan Carlos Gamacio west Beirut

UNIDENTIFIED Muslim extremists yesterday said they would free another American hostage by tomorrow night. A brief statement delivered to a Beirut newspaper and a Western news agency, along with photographs of Mr Frank Herbert Reed, aged 57, said that the teacher would be freed to convey “a message to President Bush”.

The unsigned announcement was the first news about Mr Reed since he was kidnapped driving to play golf near Beirut airport on September 9, 1986. Four days later, the obscure “Arab Revolutionary Cells-Omar Mukhtar Forces” claimed responsibility for the abduction.

The announcement, a surprise in the wake of hostile comments about the US by a radical Shia Muslim leader in Lebanon and the hardline *Jumhuriya Islami* newspaper in Tehran, was made exactly one week after Mr Robert Polhill was freed by the pro-Iranian “Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine”

Soviet future, page 12

## View on royalty comes under fire

By Michael Binyon and Nicholas Wood

MRS Thatcher's critics yesterday rounded on her warning at the Dublin summit that the British people feared moves towards European political union could jeopardise the position of the Queen.

Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, insisted that as a constitutional monarch, devoid of powers, the Royal Family had nothing to fear from the changes being discussed in the EC.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said: “Mrs Thatcher seems worried not so much about Queen Elizabeth II but about Queen Margaret the Pretender.”

Both Mr Heath and Mr Kaufman argued that the five other EC countries with constitutional monarchs saw no threat to their existing

arrangements from political union.

EC foreign ministers will this week begin drawing up a report they are to present to the next Dublin meeting at the end of June, spelling out what is meant by political union.

In two months they must list all the options on co-ordinating defence and foreign policies, and how the powers of the Brussels Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers should be altered.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that there had now to be “a coming together” of “the declarations and the realities”.

Pace of EC union, page 10  
Summit communiqué, page 10  
Chair Cruise O'Brien, page 14  
Leading article, page 15

### INSIDE

#### BT holding loses \$550m

British Telecom is showing a paper loss of \$550 million (\$337 million) on an investment in McCaw Cellular Communications, the largest US mobile telephone operator. McCaw shares have fallen from \$47.50 to \$25.25, valuing BT's stake at \$902 million. Page 25

#### Denning attack

Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, in a letter to *The Times*, has attacked the Court of Appeal decision to quash the convictions of the Winchester Three. Page 3  
Leading article, page 15  
Letters, page 15

#### Prison delay

Charges against the rioters at the Strangeways prison may take two years to come to trial, sources have indicated. A huge police investigation has begun into the 25-day siege at the Manchester jail. Page 3

#### Slovo's view

The African National Congress would grab at any way forward that involved no bloodshed. Mr Joe Slovo, the secretary-general of the South African Communist Party said. Page 11

#### Hendry leads

Stephen Hendry was leading Jimmy White 14-10 in the final of the world Embassy snooker championship yesterday, needing a further four frames to become the youngest player to win the world title. Page 40

#### Forest's cup

Nottingham Forest retained the Littlewoods Cup, beating Oldham Athletic, of the second division, 1-0 at Wembley. Jemson scored the winning goal. Page 40

### INDEX

Arts	18
Births, marriages, deaths	17
Court & Social	16
Crosswords	22-24
Education	21
Entertainments	22
Leading articles	15
Letters	16
Obituary	16
Preview	22
TV & Radio	23
Weather	24

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Karpov: “One mistake, then it was over”

## Chess computer beats a human champion

By Raymond Keene  
Chess Correspondent

SINCE the ingenious Baron Wolfgang von Kempelen, engineer to the imperial court of Vienna in the mid-18th century, constructed his mechanical chess-playing Turk, it has been the dream of every inventor of chess machines to defeat the world's best human player. In a simultaneous display in Munich last week, this dream finally came true when the Mephisto-Portorose Chess Computer took a game off Anatoly Karpov, the Soviet Union's world chess champion from 1975 to 1985 and again the challenger for the title this year.

Such simultaneous displays are extremely popular, and computers are featuring increasingly in them. Nevertheless, a computer has never before beaten a player who has held the world championship in any chess game under

whatever circumstances. Karpov's loss is thus historic, providing evidence of the advances being made by chess-playing computers.

Karpov took on 24 opponents at once in the Munich display. The computer was the only opponent to beat him. Although the Mephisto-Portorose machine is manufactured in Germany, the successful chess-playing program was written by Mr Richard Lang, a British scientist who lives and works at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. The program has several times won the computer world chess championship.

Asked for a comment at the end of the game, the defeated Karpov replied: “It was the same as against (the world champion, Garry) Kasparov. I made one mistake and then it was over.”

The Mephisto Chess micro-computer is a commercial model available in shops. Hitherto they have seemed less

threatening to human champions than the great American university mainframe computers, such as Hitech and Deep Thought, which have incredible number-crunching abilities.

Last October in New York Kasparov, aged 26 and also from the Soviet Union, faced Deep Thought, a machine partially funded by the Pentagon and capable of visualizing a million chess positions every second, which had earlier beaten Bent Larsen, a grandmaster. Kasparov avenged Larsen's humiliation by the crushing score of 2-0, but admitted that it was “uncanny and nerve-racking” playing against a ghost-like unseen opponent.

“I can't visualize living with the knowledge that a computer is stronger than the human mind,” he said, referring to Larsen's defeat. “I had to challenge Deep Thought for this match to protect the human race.”

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# Britain may have to make 'green' reports to the UN

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

BRITAIN may find itself bound to make annual reports for the United Nations on its environmental progress after Europe's first international conference on sustainable development, or "green growth".

The idea will be put forward at the conference, which begins in Bergen, Norway, on May 8, by the Norwegian government as a way of giving teeth to the wide-ranging environmental commitments expected to be made by 34 nations from Western and Eastern Europe as well as the United States and Canada.

It may give Mr Christopher Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, a new weapon in his ambitious but apparently faltering attempt at the "greening" of Whitehall. The commitments in the conference's final declaration

are likely to include several of the most important projects Mr Patten hoped to include in the forthcoming environment White Paper but which have been running into opposition inside Whitehall.

They include environmental systems of national accounting to show "green GDP" as well as the merely financial balance sheet, a determined campaign on energy efficiency, and a public commitment to "reduce the harmful effects of the transport sector".

Mrs Kristin Hille Valla, Norway's environment minister, said: "We will propose annual reports for two reasons. It is important each country should control itself and keep a record of what it is doing; and it is important to be able to compare national records because pollution knows no national bound-

aries." The conference, which will last until May 16, is the European follow-up to the Brundtland Report, the influential 1987 report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, chaired by Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, until last year Prime Minister of Norway.

The report said that only economic growth could prevent the countries of the Third World from falling further into poverty, but it had to be development that was "sustainable", growth that did not destroy the environment. The only way to achieve it, the report said, was to integrate environmental considerations into all economic policy.

Next week's conference will seek a detailed commitment to the principles of sustainable development from the industrialized nations, in advance of the 1992 World Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil.

At that conference, it is hoped that the Third World and the industrialized countries will agree on how to proceed with economic growth without, for example, destroying the rain forests of the Amazon.

● The Government's forthcoming White Paper on the Environment must transform the balance of policy in favour of the environment right across Whitehall, according to the Council for the Protection of Rural England (Christopher Warner writes).

It must include not only the Department of the Environment, but agricultural, transport, energy and economic policies, the council urges in a submission to the department published today.

"All need radical redirection to meet the environmental challenges of the future," it says. "Vague rhetoric, exhortation and limited gestures will not do."

The submission, entitled "From White Paper to Green Future", highlights a need for a commitment to countryside protection, which, it says, should be at the heart of any new environmental policy.

## Palumbo takes City site ruling to Lords

By Jamie Dettmer

THE long-running dispute over the redevelopment of the Mappin & Webb site of Victorian buildings in the City of London took another surprising turn yesterday after it emerged that Mr Peter Palumbo, in his role as property developer, had petitioned the House of Lords in an attempt to overturn a recent legal ruling blocking his plans.

Mr Palumbo, whose £140million scheme for the site has been described by the Prince of Wales as resembling a "1930s wireless", petitioned the House of Lords on Friday seeking leave to appeal against last month's Court of Appeal decision, which found against the development. The move has surprised his opponents, including the pressure group Save Britain's Heritage.

Last month's Court of Appeal ruling quashed a decision by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the former environment secretary, to allow the demolition

of eight listed buildings on the site, which is just opposite the Mansion House. The judges refused the Department of the Environment leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

In their ruling, they said that Mr Ridley had not given adequate reasons for finding in favour of the development. They said his decision was "fatally flawed". Mr Ridley gave the go-ahead for the development after a public inquiry into the plans. The inspector from the department had said the development "might just be a masterpiece".

Mr Palumbo said after the Court of Appeal ruling that he would seek further detailed legal advice. He had a month to decide to petition the Lords.

Mr Palumbo's petition argues that the Court of Appeal's ruling was wrong and that the issues raised are of general public interest.



Dr Oliphant Jackson, chairman of the British Chelonis Group, a charity registered to conserve tortoises, terrapins and turtles, focusing his camera on the underside of a tortoise as part of a computer record. Each plastron, as the underside is known, varies in colour and patterning in much the same way as fingerprints, and the group has combined with the Conservation Research Group in Cambridge to make a register to identify lost or stolen tortoises or illegal imports, and to help in breeding programmes and research projects.

## Health care urged for teachers

By David Tytler, Education Editor

TIME off should be given to women teachers for cancer screening and more attention should be paid to looking after mothers during pregnancy and on their return to the classroom, a teachers' union says today.

Guidelines published by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers call for the Government, education authorities and governors to begin a health care campaign for women teachers.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, its general secretary, said: "The union appreciates the effects of increased workloads on all teachers, but it is particularly concerned that the many women who take on the dual role of teacher and home provider/carer will neglect their health unless positive health care programmes are introduced."

The union points out that the falling population will mean more women being required to work. More than

12 million are expected to be in work by 1995. In primary schools the majority of teachers are women. In 1986 7,775 women applied for primary teacher training compared to 942 men.

The latest figures also show that ill health among teachers is increasing. One local authority reports that days lost through sickness have doubled to 22,000 in the past four

Education, page 21

## PR men come to rescue of ministers

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

INSTEAD of shooting the messenger because of the unpopularity of the policy or message, high-profile Cabinet ministers are to be accorded the services of leading advertising and public relations executives in an attempt to make their utterances more acceptable.

Three senior ministers have agreed to receive specialist advice about communications strategy, a fourth is considering the idea and others are expected to follow. The move, which comes as the Conservatives continue their plunge in the opinion polls, follows a dinner hosted by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Tory party chairman, attended by leaders of the advertising and PR firms.

The advisers are giving their services free of charge. Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, perceived as being less than foot perfect in his handling of the prison disturbances, is receiving advice from Mr Tim Bell, a former director of Saatchi & Saatchi who is now deputy chairman of Lowe Howard Spink and Bell. Mr Bell, reputed to be the Prime Minister's favourite advertising man, is no stranger to politics — especially when politicians are facing a crisis.

Mr John MacGregor, the Secretary of State for Education, who was involved in controversy over supposedly allowing white parents to take their children out of black schools, is to have the services of Mr Robin Wright, chairman of Wright Collins, Rutherford and Scott.

The third adviser appointed so far is Mr John Banks, chairman of Young and Rubicam, who will help Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, who lost the publicity battle in the ambulance dispute.

Mr Brendan Bruce, director of communications at Conservative Central Office and a former advertising industry man, explained yesterday: "It was my feeling that there were a lot of people in the communications business — in PR, advertising, direct mail and the creative side — that wanted to help and were Conservatives and felt communication could be improved."

## 80 MPs call for more sex education

AN ALL-PARTY group of 80 MPs is calling for better sex education and family planning services to reduce the number of abortions from the present level of 184,000 a year (Nicholas Wood writes).

A Commons motion has been signed by the broad coalition of MPs who successfully beat off last week's attempt to reduce the upper limit for legal terminations to 22 weeks.

It calls for better sex education in schools, greater publicity for contraception, better family planning services and improved NHS abortion clinics to reduce delays leading to late terminations.

Miss Harriet Harman, a Labour health spokeswoman, said she expects more MPs to sign the motion today.

## House sales low

House sales in the first quarter of the year totalled 323,784, or 5 per cent below the same period of 1989 and 23 per cent below those of the 1988 first quarter, the Adams Residential Property Index said in a new survey. They were the worst figures since 1983, it said.

## Peace rally

Thousands of people attended a peace rally in Downpatrick, Co Down, yesterday to pay their last respects to four Ulster Defence Regiment soldiers murdered in a huge IRA bomb explosion. The march, led by Protestant and Catholic clergy, was the biggest peace rally for some years.

## Spending chore

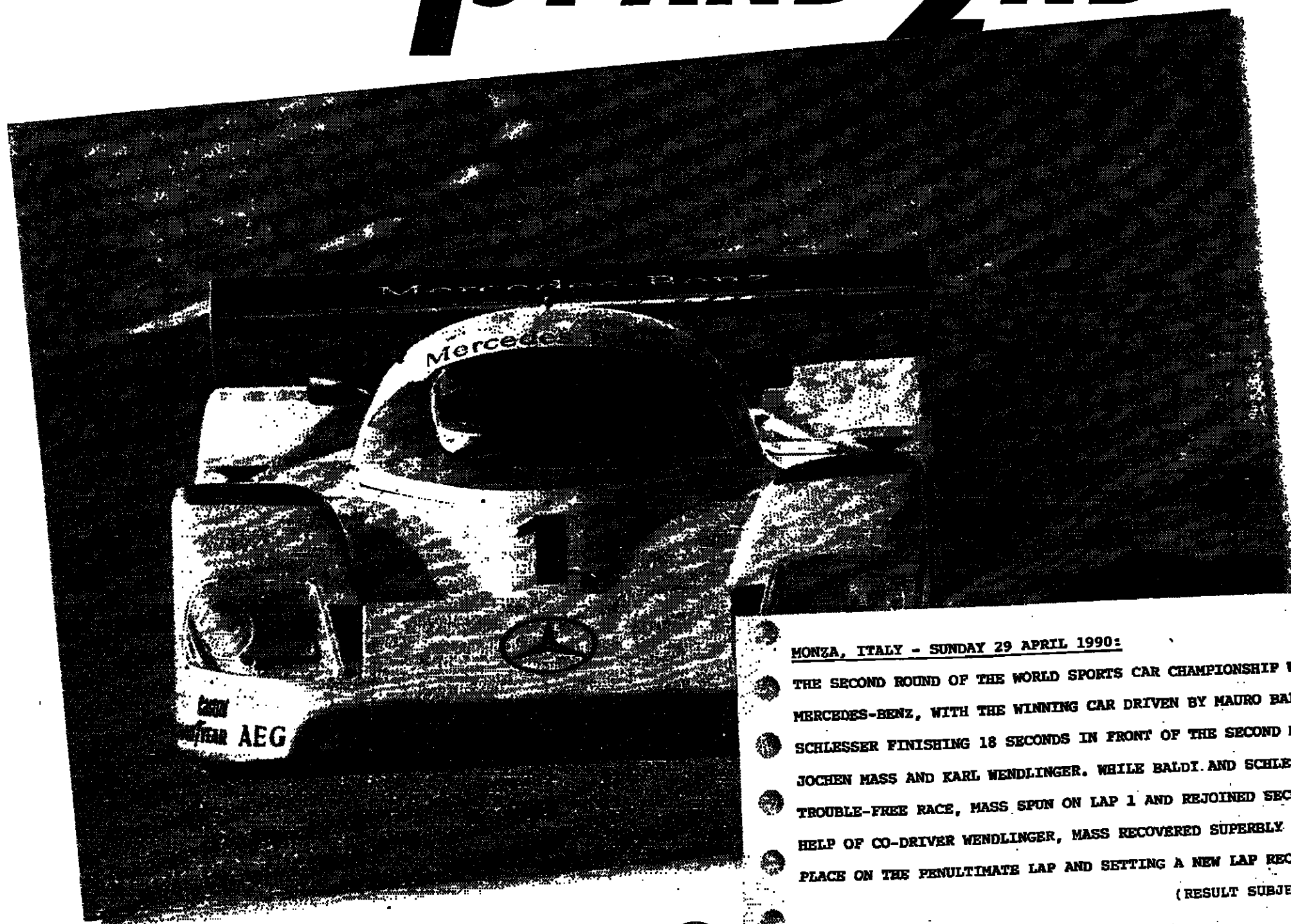
The Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances, a 100-year-old charity with the Queen as its patron, is to hold an emergency meeting to find ways of spending some of its £7.5 million bank balance. Money is used generously but interest keeps swelling its coffers.

## CORRECTION

Barking and Dagenham Council asks us to make clear that the spelling error in an advertisement mentioned in the Diary (April 10) was made not by it, but by Times Newspapers, and also that the council was never part of the lie.

# MERCEDES-BENZ

## 1ST AND 2ND



MONZA, ITALY - SUNDAY 29 APRIL 1990:

THE SECOND ROUND OF THE WORLD SPORTS CAR CHAMPIONSHIP WAS DOMINATED BY MERCEDES-BENZ, WITH THE WINNING CAR DRIVEN BY MAURO BALDI AND JEAN-LOUIS SCHLESSER FINISHING 18 SECONDS IN FRONT OF THE SECOND MERCEDES C 11 OF JOCHEN MASS AND KARL WENDLINGER. WHILE BALDI AND SCHLESSER ENJOYED A TROUBLE-FREE RACE, MASS SPUN ON LAP 1 AND REJOINED SECOND LAST. WITH THE HELP OF CO-DRIVER WENDLINGER, MASS RECOVERED SUPERBLY RETAKING SECOND PLACE ON THE PENULTIMATE LAP AND SETTING A NEW LAP RECORD IN THE PROCESS. (RESULT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION)

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# Jail rioters may not go to trial for two years

HOMER Office sources have indicated that it could be two years before charges against the rioters at the Strangeways prison come to trial. The news came as a huge police investigation began into the 28-day siege at the Manchester jail.

The sources pointed out that 41 prisoners charged with riot and damage after a much smaller disturbance at the Risley remand centre, in Cheshire a year ago, were to be brought to trial, and indicated that it could be two years before the Strangeways inmates would be able to be brought before a court.

At the same time it was revealed that the Home Office was facing a £1 million claim for compensation over the riot. Scores of home-owners and business people living and working around the Victorian prison are seeking damages for disrupted lives and lost trade.

The police investigation into the affair, which ended last Wednesday, will include interviewing each of the 1,650 prisoners who were in the jail when the riot broke on Sunday, April 1.

## 'Court error' led to boy's prison night

AN MP is calling for a Home Office inquiry into how boy aged 12 came to spend a night on remand in Pentonville prison (Stewart Tendler writes). The boy, accused of stealing a purse, was eventually moved to a youth custody centre.

Yesterday Mr. Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Littleborough and Salford, said he planned to raise the case with Mr. David Waddington, the Home Secretary. "I find it breathtaking that such a bungle could have occurred and I shall be demanding to know all the circumstances of this incident," he said.

The boy, said to look younger than his actual years, appeared before magistrates on a Saturday last month. He was remanded in custody and taken to Pentonville prison, which acts as a remand centre for central London at weekends. Prison staff realized the boy must be very young and placed him overnight in the prison's hospital wing. On the Sunday the boy was taken to the youth custody centre at Feltham.

According to the Home Office yesterday, there may have been some confusion in the magistrates' court about the boy's age.

A spokesman said: "In normal circumstances or on any other day he would have gone to Feltham. He was kept in the hospital wing overnight without any great distress."

# Hawk takes the City's pigeons under his wing



## Dignity stressed in guidelines on care of elderly

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

NEW guidance to safeguard standards of care in residential homes for the elderly after the implementation of community care reforms next April is to be launched by Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the Minister for Health, this morning.

The document from the Social Services Inspectorate, has been sent to all local authorities to help the new independent inspection units now being set-up to monitor and safeguard care in both private, voluntary and local authority homes.

Under the reforms local authorities will take financial responsibility for the care of the elderly in the community and decide whether they need residential care, which they can buy from the private sector or provide themselves. Authorities will also be required to set up independent units to inspect all types of residential homes. At present councils only have to inspect private homes.

Much of the advice refers to earlier papers calling for greater choice for residents over lifestyle and care, the need to safeguard a resident's rights, and the aim of fostering independence, privacy and dignity.

No residents should be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment or forced to undertake any tasks against their will, the report says. People should have the freedom to withdraw from care and treatment. Family and private life should be respected and sexual relationships

## Equipment shortage hits BSB's big launch

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

THE second phase of the satellite television revolution began last night when British Satellite Broadcasting started beaming programmes on five new channels direct to viewers' homes.

However, BSB suffered the same fate as Sky Television when it launched 14 months ago — and many could not watch the output. BSB had hoped to have about 50,000 receiver kits in the shops by yesterday but said it was let down by suppliers.

Around 300,000 homes with cable TV were, however, able to tune in. The £1.3 billion venture has suffered more than its fair share of technical, business and internal problems and yesterday's launch was six months later than planned.

Mr. Anthony Simmonds, BSB's chief executive, said: "We intend to honour what is best in British broadcasting whilst broadening choice and giving greater power to the viewer."

"BSB is in the best traditions of British enterprise. It is ambitious, innovative, committed to quality and based upon a long-term view of investment."

The TV station announced yesterday that it had reached agreement with the All England Lawn Tennis club to show extended highlights of the 1990 Wimbledon championships in peak viewing time.

Spot page 35

George the harris hawk, who has made the feathers fly among the pigeon population of the Broadgate Centre at Liverpool Street station, in the City of London, with Mrs Sue Vanyack, his handler.

Mrs Vanyack and her husband Alana, who keep 28 birds at their home in the Essex village of Chadwell St Mary, have turned their hobby of falconry into a business. "Someone noticed our hawks frightened off smaller birds and asked if we could scare some sparrows for them," Mrs Vanyack said. After that the

contracts trickled in, and they now have eight. The regular presence of the hawk at the Broadgate Centre has scared away the pigeons, who avoid roosting there now that George has established it as his territory. Although he has not killed any of them, he has brought down birds on other pest control assignments.

The hawk has a tiny radio transmitter fixed to his back so that his handlers can keep track of him through a receiver. Usually, though, he returns to them when they blow a whistle.

## Merchant shipping fleet 'is below critical level'

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE number of merchant seamen available to support Britain's armed forces in a crisis or war has fallen below a critical level, according to a report commissioned by the United Kingdom Centre for Maritime Policy Studies.

The report, which highlighted the continuing rapid reduction in vessels and men, gave a warning that the British-owned merchant shipping fleet could be "threatened with extinction".

Between 1975 and 1988, the British-owned merchant fleet fell from 1,614 ships, totalling 50 million tonnes, to 437 ships and 8,600,000 tonnes. In the same period the number of registered officers and ratings fell from 41,432 and 39,152 to 9,444 and 13,320 respectively. The numbers were continuing to drop by 10 per cent a year.

Yet, according to estimates in the report, the critical levels for defence purposes alone, if there were a full-scale NATO war, were 269 ships, 5,123 officers and 7,888 ratings.

Those would be the numbers for Britain to meet its commitments for the reinforcement of Europe from North America (the North Atlantic Sealift); the reinforcement of Europe from Britain and direct support for the Royal Navy.

Of the present UK-owned fleet, all the deep-sea general cargo vessels would be required, well over 50 per cent of the suitable tankers and offshore supply vessels and most of the ferries. As far as manpower was concerned, over half the merchant shipping crew members would be needed to meet the maximum military requirement.

Although not every task would require all-British crews, the key senior officer posts at least would have to be filled by UK or NATO citizens, the report said.

The study concluded that overall defence and economic re-supply requirements "would absorb the total UK-owned fleet and more, particularly general cargo ships". It

added: "There are now insufficient seafarers to man this total fleet and thus the UK would be dependent on foreign crews being willing to enter the war zone."

The report was carried out for the maritime policy studies centre by the Department of Shipping and Transport at the Polytechnic South West, Plymouth.

Yesterday, Mr. David Tomlinson, director of the centre, said that for the first time even the Ministry of Defence had begun to acknowledge that there were problems.

The defence White Paper published earlier this month claimed that in general there were enough vessels on the UK register to support the armed forces in war but it admitted that the position was "tight in some categories."

The UK Shipping Industry Critical Levels Study (British Maritime Charitable Foundation, £20)

## Changes mean more in jail probation officers say

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

GOVERNMENT plans to overhaul sentencing practices are likely to increase the prison population, not reduce it as intended, the National Association of Probation Officers says today.

The association, in its formal response to the criminal justice White Paper published in February, supports the overall aim of improving sentencing consistency and reducing the use of custody, but says the tactics are "deeply flawed" and inadequately costed.

Ministers have said the net effect of the proposals should be to reduce the jail population, which, in spite of a fall of over 2,000 over the past year, continues to dwarf, proportionately, its counterparts in Western Europe. No figures have been given, but the White Paper spoke of a "significant reduction".

The association, however,

flatly rejects the prediction. It says the impact of the new sentencing criteria and non-custodial sanctions would be more than offset by the proposal that offenders receiving prison terms should serve a greater proportion of their sentences in jail.

It accepts the Home Office's calculation that new non-custodial punishments and cuts in maximum sentences for theft and non-domestic burglary would reduce the daily prison population by up to 2,400. But it argues that the estimate that parole changes would raise the figure by 1,400 is far too low, claiming that 2,000 to 3,000 is nearer the mark.

On that arithmetic, there would be a net gain in the population of up to 600 offenders. Ministers, however, believe the association has underestimated the enthusiasm judges and magistrates

are likely to have for a policy which will restore some meaning to sentences.

The association welcomes many proposals, such as the imposition of stricter sentencing guidelines for adult offenders aged over 21, the reduction in maximum sentences for theft and non-domestic burglary, and the introduction of an income-related fines system.

However, it sees as mistaken the proposal that sentencing should be centred on the idea of "just deserts", and that community sanctions should have a clear punitive element. That could only buttress custodial sentencing, it says.

The paper says ministers have backed away from the view expressed in their earlier Green Paper on sentencing policy that imprisonment should be reserved for "very serious offences".

## Denning attacks decision to free Winchester Three

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

LORD Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, in a letter to *The Times* today, roundly attacks the decision of the Court of Appeal to quash the convictions of the Winchester Three because their case might have been prejudiced by remarks on abandoning the right to silence.

In the judgement on Friday the judges referred to comments on government plans to curtail the right to silence made during the trial two years ago by Mr. Tom King, then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Lord Denning. At that stage of the trial the defendants, accused of plotting to kill Mr. King, had elected not to give evidence.

Lord Denning, the appeal judges were told, argued for the abolition of the right to silence in an interview on Channel 4. In the judgement Lord Justice Beldam said that Lord Denning's reputation

and influence on the subject of the law were unique. "For some lawyers, and most laymen, his pronouncements represent the law," he added.

In his letter Lord Denning says that the judgement implies a breach of the Contempt of Court Act but that he had a proper defence, speaking in



Lord Denning: Spoke on the matter in good faith

good faith on a matter of public interest. He writes: "My view is that justice was done in the Crown Court at Winchester by Mr. Justice Swinton Thomas (the presiding judge of the Western Circuit) and a Hampshire jury. It was not done at the Old Bailey in London by three judges of the Court of Appeal."

At the weekend there were calls from the Opposition for statements on what had happened and the role of the law officers, but government sources rejected any suggestion that Mr. King's position as Secretary of State for Defence might be in doubt.

The two men and the woman freed have returned to the Irish Republic. A solicitor for two of the three said she would talk to them about such questions as compensation.

Letters, page 15  
Leading article, page 15

## Ministers' saving grace likely to infuriate art world

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

CANOVAS "The Three Graces" is likely to stay in Britain as a result of planned changes to the rules on the export of works of art. They are likely to infuriate the art trade.

Mr. Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Mr. Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, are to reverse traditional policy on rescuing items for the national heritage with public money only. They are ready to alter the "Waverley Rules" governing such cases, which would mean backing a private deal to keep the Canova in Britain.

They expect an outcry from auction houses and art dealers over

what will be seen as a crucial interference with the free market. The problem is that art prices have more than doubled in five years and the Government is able to preserve fewer than half of the items recommended by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, which has the power to recommend delaying export licences.

The safety net when all else fails is the National Heritage Memorial Fund which has a basic income of no more than £3 million a year, although this is boosted in most years by specific grants.

The Fund has said that underfunding was making it increasingly powerless to save paintings and sculptures. Purchase grants for

museums and galleries have been static for four years and they can no longer compete for items such as the £7.6 million Canova.

Two offers from the private sector have come after the news of the sale to the Getty Museum in California. Mr. Jacob Rothschild, the financier, has produced a scheme to buy the sculpture and set the sum against the duties on a relative's estate. This would be effective mean taxpayers purchasing the work.

The Scottish entrepreneurs David and Frederick Barclay have also offered to pay the £7.6 million, guaranteeing to put the sculpture on public view for 20 years, alternating between the Victoria & Albert museum and a Scottish gallery.

Existing rules provide only for the permanent refusal of export licences when the alternative domestic offer comes from a public collection.

Ministers are prepared to end that restriction, which would leave the Cayman Islands Trust, which owns the Canova, little option but to sell to a private bidder in Britain. If they do that, however, there will be complaints about moving the goal posts in the course of a game, and they will be setting crucial precedents.

One key question is what happens after 20 years if the Barclay brothers have purchased the Canova and then wish to sell it at a profit? Would domestic speculators be able to purchase any work of art tem-

porarily refused an export licence in preference to a foreign buyer, so competing on unfair terms in a theoretically free market?

There is also a question on what restriction should be placed on resale and what effect such an arrangement would have on Britain's hugely successful art trade.

Ministers are considering such details but have taken the decision in principle that the private sector will have to be involved if Britain's art treasures are to be kept for the nation. Also under consideration is the possibility of extending the period for which export licences can be delayed to allow national collections to launch appeals and raise the huge sums required.

If you need even more evidence for dog registration, watch TV tonight.

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Bri<sup>4</sup>

# RITZ OF THE SKIES

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According to a leading travel writer the Ritz has a serious rival. Us. Such high praise is understandable when you fly Air New Zealand's award winning Business Class. The check-in is fast, the V.I.P. lounge tranquil. On board the complimentary champagne merely whets the appetite for dinner. Steak Bearnaise

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at 30,000 ft, rare indeed. Also expect fine bone china and fine wines. And as with any premier hotel the room is exceptional. With each seat covered in plush soft lambswool. Who said long-hauls have their shortcomings? Perhaps the only writer who mistakenly flew on another airline. Reservations on 021-000 3000.



# Oxfam bows to ruling on sanctions campaign

By Jamie Dettmer

Oxfam complied with a ruling by the Charity Commissioners yesterday and temporarily dropped plans to campaign in favour of sanctions against South Africa.

The commissioners, who are holding an inquiry to decide whether Oxfam has broken the law by engaging in "undue political activity", ordered the withdrawal of leaflets calling for sanctions on the eve of the launch of the charity's "Front Line Africa" campaign.

The charity said, however: "It is still Oxfam's policy to say that sanctions should be maintained, because we think this is the best way of helping to achieve peace and development in South Africa and the region as a whole. We base that claim on many years' experience of working in South Africa."

"We will be defending vigorously our position at the inquiry. In the meantime, we

have accepted that the commissioners have made a ruling and we will go along with it."

Oxfam said that it would argue that a charity may legally campaign politically if its work is being obstructed by political factors.

The Front Line Africa campaign, which was launched yesterday, aims to raise £1 million for the charity's work in the region. The campaign also calls for more British and EC aid to be directed to the area and argues that the Government and banks should cancel debts owed to them from the region.

Other charities will be observing the commissioners' inquiry closely. They hope that the investigation, which will look at several recent Oxfam campaigns, including one on Cambodia, will clarify complex charity laws regarding political activity.

The commissioners announced on Friday that they intended to hold an inquiry. They had received several complaints about Oxfam and had decided to hold a "thorough review" rather than deal with each one on a piecemeal basis.

While leaflets calling for the continuation of sanctions were excluded from the launch of Front Line Africa, the commissioners did not ask for a detailed booklet outlining the campaign recommendations to be withdrawn.

Most people believe that Mrs Margaret Thatcher should not yet visit South Africa, according to an opinion poll published today.

The Gallup survey, carried out for the Anti Apartheid Movement, showed 52 per cent thought the Prime Minister should not go until a new agreement is reached between the South African government and the majority black population.

Only 31 per cent supported her visit, which she has already agreed to make without setting a date. The survey found that support for sanctions is the same now as in 1988 - 56 per cent are in favour of them, and 44 per cent against.

The survey was conducted with a sample of 1,000 people after the Easter Monday Wembley concert in honour of Mr Nelson Mandela.



DAVID MONEY

# Labour plans 190mph track to Edinburgh

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

AMBITIOUS plans for 190mph trains running from London to Scotland are being drawn up by the Labour Party as part of its response to the controversy raging over the high-speed link to the Channel Tunnel.

The proposals to be unveiled next month by Mr John Prescott, the chief opposition transport spokesman, envisage a dedicated "fast track" from the capital to Edinburgh with feeder lines to major cities and towns in the North, the West Country and Midlands.

The aim is to ensure that the rest of Britain enjoys the benefits of a high-speed link to the Continent and to enable the railways to compete with air travel.

British Rail's existing proposals using new trains are more modest, a dedicated high-speed link to the Channel Tunnel from London on which up to 15 inter-capital trains will run to Paris and Brussels, reaching speeds of up to 80 mph in Kent and 180 mph on the Continent, plus through services on existing track to the west and east of the country.

Mr Prescott's proposals face formidable obstacles, such as the cost of building a new main line and the difficulties of obtaining planning consent.

He is to seek to persuade the European Commission to release some of its £9.5 billion structural funds for the project and he is holding talks with financiers about a private-sector input. He believes that developers could be persuaded to put up money in return for planning consents around new junctions.

Options for the new trains that would be needed include those already planned by BR

or importing high-speed technology from France, Germany or Japan. It is understood that Mr Prescott is still examining those possibilities and is likely to set out his thinking in a paper to a local authority transport conference on June 18.

He outlined his ambitious new ideas in a little noticed speech last week in Leeds. "We need a high speed rail network. Only half the BR preferred route will be electrified. Our rail gauge is insufficient to meet the greater standards of requirements of many European countries. Many trains in France travel more than twice as fast as the 120 mph in Britain, and to compete for the economic advantages we need modernization now," he said.

"Britain needs a dedicated passenger and freight network to meet the opportunities of the Channel Tunnel. Putting new trains with new potential on old and already congested lines and junctions is ridiculous. It is inefficient."

"The Channel Tunnel rail link must provide the greatest economic advantage to the whole of Britain from Scotland and the North to Wales and the West Country, fully integrated to the cross-London link and including trains travelling straight from Dover, while guaranteeing environmental protection in the South-east."

"The BR preferred route does not meet these objectives. So other options must be considered."

Mr Prescott also reiterated his view that the Government should repeal Section 42 of the Channel Tunnel Act so that public money could be provided for the high-speed link in Kent.

## Crosswords stump all but three

By John Grant  
Crossword Editor

ONLY three of the 175 contestants at the Birmingham regional final of *The Times* Collins Dictionary Crossword Championship, held at the Grand Hotel yesterday, managed to complete all four puzzles correctly.

Mr Clive Spate, aged 38, of Woodthorpe, Nottingham, emerged as champion, completing the four puzzles in an average time of 134 minutes each. He teaches mathematics at Queen Elizabeth's Boys' School, Mansfield.

Mr David Meadows, aged 56, a retired information scientist from Alveston, Derby, was second, taking one minute longer per puzzle.

Third was Mr Philip Navin, aged 40, who is head of mathematics at St John's School, Episkopi, Cyprus, who came over to Britain on his half-term to compete in the regional final.

All three go forward to the national final in London on September 8. Mr Simon Chillingworth came fourth.

## Historic aircraft fail to take off

By John Shaw

A REPLICA of a Hawker Fury fighter made the top price of £198,000 at Christie's sale of historic aircraft at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambridgeshire, at the weekend.

It was built for Mr Patrick Lindsay, a director of Christie's and a flying enthusiast. It provided a bright spot in a sale of mixed fortunes which made £724,537.

Only 15 of the 43 aircraft on offer sold. Two were withdrawn and 26 went unsold, including a SE5a fighter from the First World War and a MiG 21PF, one of the fastest fighters in the world.

Buying was selective. A 1938 Bucker Jungmeister, the famous aerobatic favourite, made £66,000, a 1953 Cessna 195B and a Mitchell B25 bomber each made £49,500, and a 1936 Focke-Wulf Stieglitz trainer £44,000.

There was keen interest in aviation books, ephemera and clothing. Small aluminium aircraft models were in demand: a Flying Fortress made £2,420 (£400-£600), and a MkII Spitfire £2,640 (£200-£300). A Second World War USAF leather flying jacket,

the back painted with a line of bombs, a glamorous girl and the name "Stardust", sold for £1,100 (£280-£320).

A wartime RAF fur-lined flying jacket and suit made £1,430 (£500-£800), and an RAF mess clock by Smith's, 1942, went to a £2,200 (£300-£500).

Meanwhile Christie's in New York sold clocks and watches for \$1.7 million (£1.1 million). A Patek Philippe

gold wristwatch with a chronograph movement went well above high estimate to \$154,000 (£94,475).

Designs for the Centotaph in Whitehall, sketched one evening during dinner by Sir Edwin Lutyens in July 1919, have been acquired by the Imperial War Museum with the help of a National Art Collections Fund grant. They were sold at Sotheby's in London for £12,000.

The British golfer Sandy Lyle casting a watchful eye over David Evans, a former leukemia victim, playing out of a bunker at Westworth yesterday as they promoted the second annual "Sandy's Stableford" charity event. The tournament is played in aid of the Paul O'Gorman Foundation for children with leukemia. David, aged 14, who plays off a handicap of 13, was one of the thousands of golfers who responded to the Stableford appeal when it was introduced last year, raising more than £100,000.

## THE 1990 ROLEX AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE.

1976 marked 50 years of the Rolex Oyster and the foundation of The Rolex Awards for Enterprise. Since then, Rolex has awarded many individuals who have demonstrated the true spirit of enterprise in their fields of endeavour. In the process,

many projects have been brought to fruition which otherwise might never have been realised. A book detailing the projects of the five Rolex Laureates and over 250 other projects has been published by Buri International, Switzerland.

## Commitment.

The first Indonesian environmental education centre. It was during long school vacations spent on his uncle's farm in Java that Suryo Prawiroatmodjo developed a passionate love for Nature.

Over time, this has matured into a deep commitment to the environment and a desire to awaken the ecological conscience of the young.

Now Suryo is well on the way to completing construction of Indonesia's first ever environmental education centre. A haven of calm, its mountainside site is skirted by primary forest.

Horrified by his fellow countrymen's attitude to the environment, Suryo believes it is vital that the centre should succeed in its aims.

"I am extremely frightened that one day I might lose my beloved country," he says.



## Enthusiasm.

Establishing Europe's first wildlife teaching hospital. An English back garden is the unlikely setting for the home of the Wildlife Hospital Trust, founded twelve years ago by Les Stocker.

Devoted to wildlife since his childhood, and distressed to discover that Britain has few facilities for treating wildlife casualties, Les has

channelled his enthusiasm into developing the Trust with, at its centre, St. Tiggywinkles hospital for hedgehogs.

Now construction plans are well on their way for his most ambitious project: a Wildlife Teaching Hospital. It will house veterinary and training facilities uniquely geared to caring for wildlife and a permanent reference library - established with the help of the Award from Rolex.



## Ingenuity.

Laser restoration of the Qin Dynasty Army. Ever since his first experiments in Venice in 1972, John Asmus has pioneered the use of lasers in removing dirt and incrustations from works of art to restore them to their original appearance.

Now he intends to develop this ingenious process still further and use lasers to revitalise and

preserve the colours found on some of the 6,000 warriors of the famous Qin Dynasty terra-cotta army. The Chinese researchers had found that the original paint pigments rapidly disappeared after exposure to air.

John plans to travel to China in the summer of 1990 to begin experiments. It could be a lengthy process - the Chinese estimate there are at least three more armies buried there!



## Concern.

Arco Iris: saving the last forests of the Brazilian Nordeste. While conducting ornithological studies in Brazil, Anita Studer discovered a small bird previously thought extinct. "Study the bird," her fellow researcher warned, "But do it quickly, because in ten years' time there will be no forest."

From that moment, the focus of Anita's

concern shifted, and has now taken the shape of the Arco Iris (Rainbow) project.

This pilot scheme involves the young people of the largely deforested Pedra Talhada area in 'Friends of the Trees' clubs to promote ecological awareness.

The Award from Rolex will help these clubs establish tree nurseries and set in motion a programme of reforestation.



## Adventure.

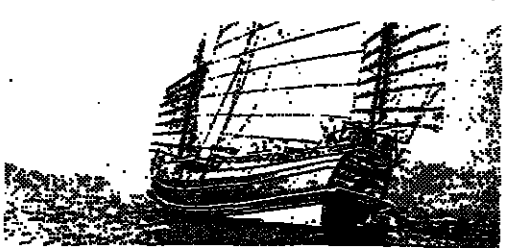
Setting sail in the wake of Marco Polo. In 1292 Marco Polo sailed from the Chinese port of Quanzhou and arrived in Venice two years later.

Now a British doctor living in Hong Kong intends to retrace this voyage.

Dr. Wayne Moran started building a scale replica of a junk of Marco Polo's era in 1986.

Making extensive use of computers in its design, Dr. Moran has constructed a 75 ton vessel named *Cienchin* after the princess whom Marco Polo was escorting to Persia.

For each port of call, Dr. Moran plans an ambitious programme of maritime archaeological, zoological, ethnological, botanical and medical studies to make a comparison between Marco Polo's era and present times.



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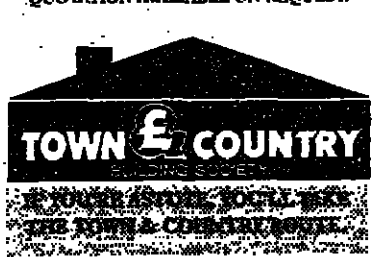
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These three dogs were photographed at an animal home last week. Sadly, they were not reclaimed or rehomed and were put down on Friday.

**Today's vote on dog registration will come too late for these dogs.**

**They were among the 7000 dogs destroyed last week.**

**As the MPs file through the lobby today, we ask them to remember this:**

**If the vote goes against registration another 350,000 dogs will die this year.**

**Next year it may be more. How many dead dogs will it take to make us all act like human beings?**



The RSPCA estimates that 1000 unwanted dogs are put down every day by veterinary surgeons, animal welfare societies and local authorities. A dog registration scheme would help save their lives and save the country millions of pounds. Over 90% of the public support dog registration as do most concerned organisations, including the Police Federation, National Farmers Union, British Veterinary Association and the Association of District Councils. Similar schemes work abroad and economists say registration would work here, too. If you're an MP, please support it.



# Return to rating system backed by 35%, survey finds

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

MORE than twice as many people support the idea of a local income tax to finance a local government spending as support either the poll tax or Labour's idea of a tax on the capital value of a house.

When a MORI poll, commissioned by *The Times* last week, posed four alternatives, it found that 29 per cent of those questioned favoured a local income tax. Only 12 per cent backed the community charge, or poll tax, and only 15 per cent "a tax based on the market value of the house you live in" which is the essence of Labour's outline proposals for an alternative.

More than a third of those questioned, 35 per cent, preferred the old rating system to any of the other three alternatives. Now that Mrs Thatcher is committed to rapid revision of the poll tax, these findings will give ministers considerable pause for thought. Half the middle classes would favour a local income tax, although they would be the ones likely to be the hardest hit.

The Liberal Democrats, who have been languishing in the national opinion polls, but who tend to perform better in local government elections, are the only party advocating a local income tax, which was derided by Mrs Thatcher in the Commons 10 days ago.

The Liberal Democrats, who retain some 3,000 councillors in local government, make a better showing in a specific MORI poll of 1,212 people who live in the areas where local elections are being held this week. They have doubled their support from 5 per cent, in the first three months of the year, to 10 per cent.

It is the Labour Party, however, that will be most encouraged by the poll findings. In the areas contested, Labour has a lead over the Conservatives of 28 per cent. The MORI poll within the areas measured support for the parties at Labour, 53 per cent; Conservatives, 25 per cent; Liberal Democrats, 10 per cent; Green Party, 5 per cent; Social Democratic Party, 3 per cent; Nationalists, 2 per cent and Others, 2 per cent.

A remarkable 53 per cent of those questioned said they were certain to vote on Thursday. The turn-out in local elections is usually in the mid-thirties. Intention to turn out is 10 points higher among those planning to support Labour, and it is higher in Scotland, where the Conservatives are lagging badly.

As for the community charge, the key issue, the news remains bleak for the Government and explains the flurry of activity within the Cabinet to lessen its impact.

While ministers are talking

## Poll tax 'most unpopular government legislation'

By Michael Hart

THE poll tax is the most unpopular piece of legislation passed by the Government. In the survey, only 23 per cent of adults approved of the change from domestic rates to the poll tax, and 72 per cent disapproved — a majority against the change of more than 3-1.

At the same time, voting intentions for Thursday's local elections gives Labour 53 per cent against the Conservatives' 25 per cent. If this is the outcome, the Conservatives will suffer their worst local government rout — in an election which has been dominated by the poll tax.

Only 18 per cent thought they would be better off under the poll tax, while 63 per cent thought they would suffer financially. These figures are almost certainly wrong, but it is nevertheless people's perceptions of how they will fare which matter to them.

The Conservative campaign is being conducted under the slogan "Conservative Councils Cost You Less". The survey suggests that this is a weak line — first, because far more people blame the Government for the level of poll tax than their local council (50 per cent to 29 per cent) and, second, because, if almost two thirds think they will be worse off, they are likely to blame the Government for the tax.

There is almost no consolation for the Government in the poll's findings. When the community charge was proposed, there was to be a flat rate charge for each individual, irrespective of where they lived. After the last general election, 43 per cent supported this proposal and 39 opposed it. Now, only 23 per cent agree, and 65 per cent oppose.

The Government has abandoned the principle of a flat rate poll tax. There is, however, no other permutation which attracts significantly wider support. The principle

of the poll tax is unpopular, as well as its implementation.

When people were asked which method they would choose to raise funds for local council services, 35 per cent wanted to revert to the old rating system — the most popular option. A local income tax (proposed by the Liberal Democrats) attracted 29 per cent support, a tax based on the market value of a property (floated by the Labour Party) attracted 15 per cent, and the community charge received the support of just 12 per cent.

Unsurprisingly, Conservative voters were more inclined than Labour voters to prefer the poll tax, but even the Government's own supporters were equally divided between the poll tax and a local income tax (30 per cent).

Among Labour voters, 46 per cent advocated a return to the old rating system while 28 per cent opted for a local income tax. Only 16 per cent supported their own party's tax on the market value of a house. Although the poll tax is unpopular, no alternative commands majority support.

Since 1987, Labour's strength has increased most among 16-34-year-olds and it is this age group in which opposition to the poll tax runs most strongly. Forty-three per cent of those questioned said they would support a campaign of non-payment, although in the population as a whole only 8 per cent said they would not pay the tax.

When the Government introduced the community charge it claimed that the new method of taxation would make local government accountable and would cause greater participation in local elections.

In the last 10 years, turnout has hovered around 40 per cent, but in the survey 53 per cent said they were "absolutely

streets, support a campaign of withholding payment.

When people were asked how much better or worse off they thought they would be under the poll tax, less than a fifth believed they would benefit and almost two thirds believed they would suffer. Just 6 per cent said they would be much better off, 12 per cent thought they would be a little better off and 14 per cent thought the new tax would make no difference to them.

Twenty-two per cent thought they would be a little worse off, and 41 per cent thought they would be much worse off. Nearly half (44 per cent) of Conservative supporters thought they would be worse off and just four in 10 of the single-person households, who were designed to benefit from the community charge, believed they would do so.

At the time of the last general election, there was 43 per cent support for a poll tax paid by all over 18 as an alternative to domestic rates, compared with only 39 per cent against. By the end of that year, sentiment had moved against the community charge by 49 to 37 per cent. By June 1988, the tax was opposed by 65 per cent with only 23 per cent in favour, and the net opposition figure remained at around 42 per cent until the tax was introduced this month.

The arrival of bills on doormats has concentrated minds further, with 23 per cent remaining in support in the latest poll, but 72 per cent now disapproving, while the "don't knows" have reduced over the past month from 12 per cent to 5 per cent.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,887 adults aged 18-plus at 144 constituency sampling points throughout Great Britain. Of these, 1,212 were interviewed in constituencies within the boundaries of local authorities holding council elections on May 3. Interviews were conducted at home, face-to-face, on April 19-24, 1990. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. © MORI/Thames Newspapers

Which alternative policy would you most prefer for raising funds for local council services (%)?

	All	Con	Lab
Old rating system	35	27	48
Community charge/poll tax	12	35	5
Tax on market value of house	15	13	16
Local income tax	29	30	28
Don't know	7	7	5
None of these	3	4	2

On the whole, are you more inclined to blame the Government or the local council for the level of poll tax or community charge that people in this area will have to pay (%)?

	All	Con	Lab
Government	50	21	68
Council	29	57	15
Both equally	14	13	13
Don't know	7	9	4

Do you support or oppose the Government replacing the system of domestic rates with a fixed charge paid by people in each household aged over 18 (%)?

	All	Con	Lab
Support	23	43	23
Oppose	76	56	75
Don't know	18	12	12

# Making waves on the leafy Thames

By Sheila Gunn  
Political Reporter

MR DAVID Williams took a few hours off from the local council election campaign last week to collect his insignia of the CBE from the Queen. The honour had been given for services to local government.

The timing is nice. The Liberal Democrat is defending his record as leader of Richmond upon Thames Borough Council for the past seven years in next week's elections. The neatly tended homes and gardens, spacious parklands, commuter car parks and air of affluence in the borough present the epitome of a Tory stronghold. The constituencies for miles around return Conservative MPs.

Yet everything in Richmond is upside down. While support for the Liberal Democrats nationally has slumped since the Alliance heyday, the party has 46 of the borough council's 52 seats. Anti-mayor SDP members hold two seats, the Conservatives four, and Labour none.

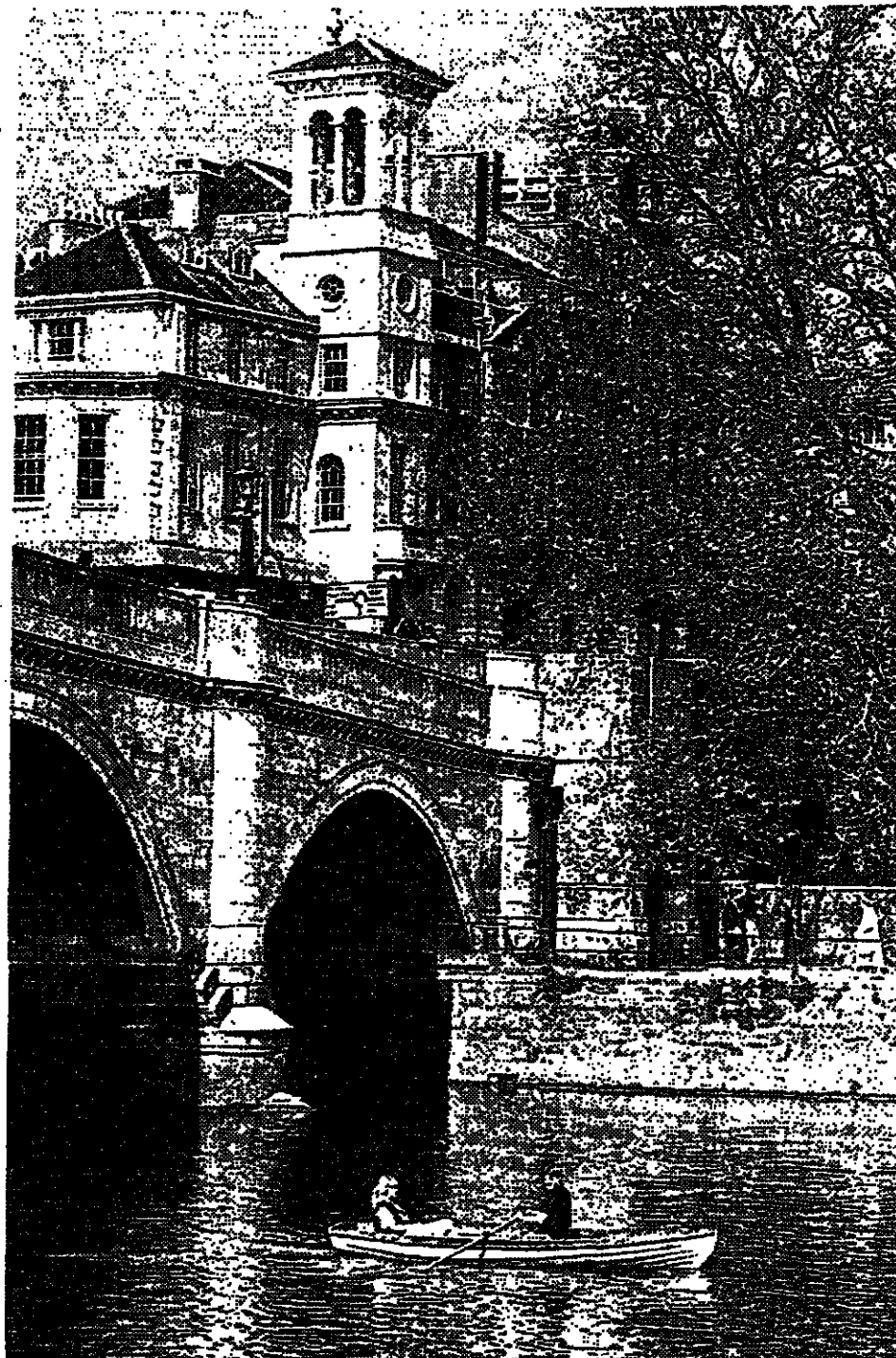
It is the showpiece of the 10 local authorities which the Liberal Democrats administer with majority control. While the party is fighting 1,000 fewer seats nationally, it remains confident of continuing its domination of the wards spreading outwards from the main artery of the Thames in Richmond, Barnes, Twickenham, Teddington, Hampton, Kew, Mortlake and East Sheen.

Labour might enjoy something of a honeymoon in opinion polls, but its chances of winning seats on the council are probably limited to hopes of regaining four former Labour wards. For the Conservatives, Richmond is a "targeted council". It is a stain on their record in southern England since they lost control seven years ago.

The party's resources have been focused on winning it back. At the launch of his party campaign, the Conservative councillor Mr Nicholas True insisted: "This local election is not about the record of the Conservative Government or the number of children in need or the President of South Africa. It is about the record of the Liberal council that has been in power for seven years."

Tory canvassers, however, say they are being given a hard time by residents over the poll tax, health and education reforms and Mrs Thatcher's leadership. They hoped to find mileage in attacking alleged mismanagement by criticising, for instance, the £395 poll-tax, £44 above the Government's target. Mr Williams points out that the charge is lower than in the Tory-controlled Surrey districts.

The argument swings both ways for the Conservatives as the relatively low level, com-



A couple enjoy the Thames at the weekend as the Tories prepared their advance

pared to the high rates, might make a favourable impression on many voters. It undermines, however, accusations of wasteful bureaucracy by the Liberal Democrats.

The Conservatives' campaign agenda make a strong feature of the amount spent on publicity and public relations. Mr Williams counters by blaming high spending on the need to explain the poll tax to residents and to promote his own "green" charter.

Tory candidates fighting all 52 seats are also focusing on a messy dispute over the demise of the borough's world-renowned ice rink next year. The council granted planning permission to developers to build homes on the rink's east Twickenham site. It did so with an understanding of du-

bious status that permission would be given for a rink to be built in the Old Deer Park.

Parking, given the commuter pressures and the many narrow lanes, is a recurrent theme. Mr True attacks the Liberal Democrats' hostility to the private motorist but also promises to discourage unnecessary car use.

Mr Williams, aged 50, with 16 years on the council behind him, seven as leader, accuses the Conservatives of running "a very abusive, negative campaign". In fact, the campaign bears all the hallmarks of the dirty tricks conventionally employed by the old Liberals at by-election campaigns.

The part-time computer consultant takes a special pride in his "green" record, and also says: "Our style of

# Tories accused on proxy voting

By Ray Clancy

BLIND and housebound elderly people have unwittingly signed away their votes in this week's local election in the London Borough of Havering. It was alleged yesterday.

Romford police are investigating the allegations after the council's returning officer found that 109 proxy votes, mostly pledged to Tory supporters, had been applied for in the Chase Cross Ward, where there are usually only a handful of such votes.

Liberal Democrat and Labour candidates in the ward claimed Conservative candidates had been visiting homes for the elderly, persuading them to agree to a proxy vote. The Conservatives said, however, that they had done nothing illegal, although they admit that some people might have become confused.

Proxy votes allow those who, because they are housebound, ill, on holiday or unable to get to the polling station on election day, to sign a document allowing someone else to vote on their behalf.

Mr Terry Hursthouse, a Liberal Democrat candidate, said he had spoken to at least two dozen people, some of them infirm and blind, who had told him they had not realized what they were doing. Some had thought the Conservatives were offering them a lift to the polling station.

He found that two Tory candidates, Mr Andrew Rosindell and Mr Cyril North, had visited Hampden Lodge home and signed up 30 residents as proxy Conservative voters. "Half of those residents are suffering from senile dementia and the warden refused to counter-sign the proxy vote forms for them."

Mr Rosindell said: "It is all quite within the law. No signatures have been forged, nobody was pushed into signing. They were asked if they wanted a proxy vote, some did and some didn't... I admit some of them might have been a bit confused."

Mr North denied the claim from other parties that most of the proxy votes had gone to elderly people. "Only a minority are elderly people. Very few of them are unhappy about us approaching them."

The local Labour party said last night it had begun its own investigation. "We feel there has been a possible breach of the Representation of the People Act," said Mr Stefan Koseda, a Labour candidate.

A spokesman for Havering council said it was willing to consider requests for cancellation of proxy votes.

## Official candidate fights true blue rival

By Kerry Gill

FOR the last 33 years, apart from a three-month hiccup seven years ago, Mr Len Thomson has served as an independent councillor in the Borders, his position virtually unassailable. Then, a few weeks ago, along came Mr David Hunter.

Mr Hunter represents the decision by the Scottish Conservative Party to challenge the historic stronghold that independents have had on local government in this predominantly rural area.

While everyone knows that Mr Thomson votes Conservative and, indeed, has held office in the local constituency association, he has refused consistently to stand as a Tory, believing that party politics are anathema to Borders folk.

The Tories, however, tired of their own supporters refusing to disclose their true colours, decided to field their own candidates against the independents. Enter Mr Hunter, the Conservative candidate who is determined to wrest the Forest ward on Borders Regional Council from his erstwhile colleague.

In 1986, the independents enjoyed a majority of 11 seats, but that has been cut to seven although three other "no ticket" members have continued to support them.

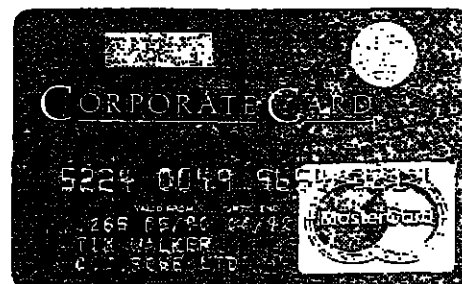
Mr Thomson, aged 74, was approached three months ago by the Tories, who asked him to stand for them. "I said, 'Just carry on and oppose me. I am standing as a no ticket'."

There is absolutely no need for party politics here. I have seen how it works in Strathclyde and Lothian, all the bitter wrangling and de-selection if you don't follow the party line, but the Borders would not have it," the former Provost of Selkirk said.

"I have had phone calls from all over the Borders from leading Conservatives saying how much they disapprove of this kind of action. The Conservatives are only doing this to boost the number of votes they get nationally. They don't seriously believe they will ever win the Borders."

Michael Hart is a fellow of Exeter College, Oxford.

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# Rules on religion lead to rethink on broadcasting Bill

By John Lewis, Political Staff

THE Government is considering late changes to the Broadcasting Bill after discovering that the rules on religious broadcasting could stop the Church of England broadcasting its normal services.

Mr David Mellor, the minister responsible for broadcasting, is discussing amendments to the consumer protection clauses of the Bill, drawn up tightly to prevent a Moonie-type invasion of television. He is being pressed by some MPs to relax the rules so that the "Moonies" and other religious groups can broadcast as well, if they wish to do so.

The Bill says nothing in the programmes of new franchise-holders after 1992 must offend against good taste and decency or incite to crime or disorder. It also says undue prominence must not be given to the views and opinions of particular people or bodies on religious matters and that the programme should not carry views and opinions of the broadcasters on religious matters.

The fear is that this could stop the Church of England conducting its own services and could limit other pro-

grammes. Mr Mellor has made concessions to the religious lobby, led by Mr Michael Allison, a former minister and parliamentary private secretary to the Prime Minister, who speaks for the Church Commissioners.

An amendment at the report stage of the Bill, expected in the second week in May, will require the new channel three and five companies to provide religious content in their schedules. Religious organizations would also be able to have their own local radio and television stations on non-DBS satellite, such as Sky from outside Britain and not licensed by the Independent Television Commission.

Mr Mellor said: "We have to decide whether the no-editorializing and no giving undue prominence arrangement provide a sufficient amount of flexibility for religious organizations to pursue properly mainstream broadcasting and whether we need to make some changes."

"The question is whether it is too restrictive by applying that to television. We want to strike a balance of not having Moonie television, but, on the

other hand, not having non-editorializing restrictions which stop a local church having a radio station."

Mr Mellor added: "It would be ludicrous -- and I don't think it would happen -- if the restriction meant that the Church of England could not put on its own service. We are determined not to have American-type religious people over here, but I am looking again at the detail to see if we have the precise formulation right."

Miss Emma Nicholson, Conservative MP for Devon West and Torridge, who has campaigned for religious programmes, said last night she was pressing for a general relaxation. "There is a great deal of concern among Christians that this Bill, which they expected to provide greater freedom on the airwaves for religion will, if anything, be more restrictive."

Ministers had been particularly alarmed about the way in which credulous viewers in the US have been persuaded to part with large sums of money to subsequently discredited religious groups.

Valuing truth, page 16

## Marching with memories of Burma campaign



Veterans of the 1942-1945 Burma campaign from all over the world who took part in the Burma Star National Remembrance Parade in

London yesterday included Mr Jack Hibbert, from Southampton, Hampshire (left) and Mr Jim Cowan, of Dickson, Tennessee.

## Ex-PC sues over delay on injury compensation

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A FORMER policeman will seek leave in the High Court today to challenge, by way of judicial review, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board over its delay of nearly two years in handling his claim.

The application, by Mr Paul Hutton, a former constable with Thames Valley police, is viewed as a test case over delays in the handling of claims by the board.

The board is faced with a huge backlog of cases (the total stood at 82,000 last November), many of which are taking two years to be processed.

The case brought by Mr Hutton, aged 40, now a court usher, arises from injuries sustained in 1976 to his upper back and neck when he was assaulted and thrown down some stairs by four youths he was trying to arrest. In 1978 the board awarded him £175.

In August 1982, he retired from the force as medically unfit, but problems with his neck continued. In 1988, a second claim was lodged.

Mr Ian Walker, his solicitor, a senior litigation partner at Russell Jones and Walker, said that there was conflicting medical evidence over whether his present problems related to the original injury in 1976. The board therefore resolved to conduct its own medical examination and agreed to be bound by the findings.

"That was in August 1988, and apart from the odd letter, nothing at all has happened since. Mr Hutton is effectively still waiting to be examined. He said they had decided to bring the High Court proceedings to force the board to deal properly with the claim and, in an attempt to get the board properly to prioritize the work that it has."

Mr Walker added: "Clearly, it would be wrong to say Mr Hutton should be put at the top of the queue, in the absence of any special circumstances. But we do say that clearly, even given the backlog, Mr Hutton is not being treated properly."

There was no doubt that many other people were in a similar position. "Even by the board's own admission, the

backlog has now reached unacceptable levels."

Leave to bring judicial review proceedings is sought on the basis that the board is "guilty of excessive and undue delay" in processing the application, such as to amount to a failure of its duty to the applicant, and/or an "abuse of its discretion and/or power".

The Government has given the board an extra £16 million this year for more staff to deal with the backlog and the 40,000 new cases every year.

## Labour asks for judicial overhaul

REFORMS to the training and system for appointing judges were urged at the weekend by Mr John Fraser, an opposition spokesman for legal affairs (Frances Gibb writes).

Addressing legal aid lawyers at the annual conference of the Legal Aid Practitioners' Group in Bristol, he criticized government reforms of the legal profession "for doing nothing about the judiciary".

He called for the creation of a judicial appointments commission. The Government's Courts and Legal Services Bill was aimed at eliminating discrimination in recruitment to the profession and the same principle should apply to the judiciary, he said.

Mr Fraser went on to repeat Labour's policy of a new department for the administration of justice, accountable to a minister.

The Lord Chancellor would then be a judge part of the time and in the House of Lords for the rest of the time.

Mr Fraser also said he would be seeking amendments to the role of the judges under the Bill so that it was not possible "for a single judge to veto the new rules" by which solicitor-advocates will enjoy wider rights of audience. "This should be a collective judgement: either all the judges approve the rules or they don't."

## 900lb bomb defused

Security forces in Northern Ireland defused a 900lb bomb at the weekend. The device, left in a Citroën van on the Fairmount housing estate in Dungannon, caused the latest in a series of alerts in Ulster in spite of a huge security drive.

There were explosions in Lisburn, Strabane and Londonderry on Saturday, although there were no injuries, and security forces discovered a bomb on a bus between Belfast and Aldergrove Airport. A woman was arrested.

## War lines

The line of early Civil War defences has been found by archaeologists in Newark, Nottinghamshire, on the site of the old Castle Brewery.

## Young patient

Stephen Hollis, aged three, one of the youngest people to have a heart-lung transplant, was stable at the Killingbeck Hospital, in Leeds.

## Mine netted

Royal Navy experts blew up a 1,600lb wartime German mine off Sizewell, Suffolk, after it was netted by four Belgian trawlers.

## Death at 108

Ethel Kerslake, a former London teacher and one of the oldest people in Britain, has died aged 108 in hospital at Truro, Cornwall.

## Rapist caught

Brian Kennah, a convicted rapist and the only one of six prisoners at large 10 days after escaping from Gloucester prison, was re-arrested in Bristol.

## Pendant stolen

Thieves stole a pendant commemorating the death of Nelson from Charlotte House near Stratford-upon-Avon.

## Private light

A 199-year-old lighthouse at Happisburgh, Norfolk, is to be run by a private trust as a beacon for local mariners.

## Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bond draw: £100,000, 17VN 222100 (Mid Glamorgan); £50,000, 11TB 714857 (Suffolk); £25,000, 20RL 722888 (Merseyside).

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On a 25 year mortgage borrower would make 100 monthly repayments. v1 - £352.92 v2 - £265.42 v3 - £248.96 v4 - £231.71 v5 - £214.56 v6 - £197.41 v7 - £180.26 v8 - £163.11 v9 - £145.96 v10 - £128.81 v11 - £111.66 v12 - £94.51 v13 - £77.36 v14 - £60.21 v15 - £42.96 v16 - £25.81 v17 - £8.66 v18 - £1.51 v19 - £0.36 v20 - £0.21 v21 - £0.06 v22 - £0.01 v23 - £0.00 v24 - £0.00 v25 - £0.00 v26 - £0.00 v27 - £0.00 v28 - £0.00 v29 - £0.00 v30 - £0.00 v31 - £0.00 v32 - £0.00 v33 - £0.00 v34 - £0.00 v35 - £0.00 v36 - £0.00 v37 - £0.00 v38 - £0.00 v39 - £0.00 v40 - £0.00 v41 - £0.00 v42 - £0.00 v43 - £0.00 v44 - £0.00 v45 - £0.00 v46 - £0.00 v47 - £0.00 v48 - £0.00 v49 - £0.00 v50 - £0.00 v51 - £0.00 v52 - £0.00 v53 - £0.00 v54 - £0.00 v55 - £0.00 v56 - £0.00 v57 - £0.00 v58 - £0.00 v59 - £0.00 v60 - £0.00 v61 - £0.00 v62 - £0.00 v63 - £0.00 v64 - £0.00 v65 - £0.00 v66 - £0.00 v67 - £0.00 v68 - £0.00 v69 - £0.00 v70 - £0.00 v71 - £0.00 v72 - £0.00 v73 - £0.00 v74 - £0.00 v75 - £0.00 v76 - £0.00 v77 - 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# Summit steps up the pace of European political unity

From Michael Binyon, Dublin

EUROPEAN Community foreign ministers will this week begin drawing up the report they are to present to the next Dublin summit, setting out what is meant by European political union and detailing the changes needed in the Treaty of Rome to achieve it. In just two short months they must list all the options open to the Community, how the defence and foreign policies of the Twelve should be co-ordinated, how the powers of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers should be altered - and how the rhetoric should be translated into reality.

In theory, their report will be the basis for a decision at the end of the Irish presidency on whether and to call an inter-governmental conference. In fact, however, the leaders of the Twelve on Saturday pre-empted the decision.

As Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister and host of the summit, announced afterwards, the convening of a conference is now a foregone conclusion. It will open in December and run in parallel with the conference on Economic and Monetary Union.

Under the accelerated timetable also agreed here, both conferences are to end within about a year, so that new treaties can be ratified in 1992 which will set the Community on an irrevocable course to economic and political union from the beginning of 1993.

Afterwards the leaders all agreed that the atmosphere at the summit was unusually cordial. Mrs Thatcher was determinedly conciliatory in her manner, and both M Jacques Delors, the Commission President, and Mr Haughey, old antagonists of Britain's, went out of their way to find points of agreement with her. Such was the harmony that the meeting finished almost an hour ahead of schedule.

Several participants said they thought Mrs Thatcher provided a healthy questioning of some of the more airy-

fairly rhetoric, and her stance usefully foregrounded the problems that must be solved if closer political integration is to make progress.

Mrs Thatcher herself made no secret of her scepticism at a press conference after the summit. "The trouble is, there is quite a lot of rhetoric and far too little nitty-gritty, and I hope the foreign ministers get down to the nitty-gritty and come up with something which does improve the European institutions, which does look and see if we need any modification and see if that modification needs a treaty reform."

Acknowledging her defeat with good grace, she did not, however, doubt that there would be a treaty change. Britain's job was now to define what political union meant, since each member - including France and West Germany, its proponents - had a different interpretation.

It did not mean a unitary European state, she insisted. There must be no loss of national institutions, no centralization of power in Brussels. Separate identity - "our greatest strength" - must not disappear just as East European countries are struggling to establish theirs.

The constitutional position of the EC's six monarchs and six presidents would be unchanged, she said. National parliaments would not be

suppressed, nor existing legal and electoral systems abandoned. No country had any intention of giving up national sovereignty and its ultimate right to decide on war and peace.

Claiming that her concerns were echoed by other leaders, Mrs Thatcher persuaded Mr Haughey to agree that all these matters were "off limits". Only M Delors, who came down on her side in urging caution and rejecting loose talk of instant political union, balked at her list of negatives.

"If I tried to define all the things a man is not, I don't think Adam would have been created," he said. To which the Prime Minister riposted: "God did do better on his second thoughts when he created Eve."

Mrs Thatcher, clearly in high spirits, did not challenge or denounce the commitment of her colleagues to political unity.

She said she had put her points across, and called the conclusions satisfactory. She was particularly pleased that the Twelve, not including neutral Ireland, had reaffirmed their support for Nato and a unified Germany's place in it.

Other leaders were equally



Happy family: Mrs Thatcher with other EC leaders after Saturday's summit in Dublin, at which an unusual degree of harmony prevailed

happy at the outcome. Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, was effusive in his thanks for his colleagues' support of German unification. No one, he said, had tried to "hold up the course of the Rhine".

The Chancellor promised to return that Germany would seek no additional funds, and appeared politely to decline an offer by M Delors of a special financial package to welcome East Germany into the Community.

Herr Kohl and other leaders spoke only of the EC help, know-how and restructuring programmes that East Germany would share with other East European countries during its remaining time as a separate state.

He rejected Mrs Thatcher's contention that the EC was putting the cart before the horse in calling a conference on political union before defining it. The EC had often made similar commitments before working out the details - as in the Single European Act. But Herr Kohl made clear Germany's own priority, which is a strengthening of the European Parliament.

His report appeared to be the first official confirmation of widespread accounts of beatings and torture inflicted on prisoners after crackdowns on last year's democracy movement and Tibetan independence protests.

In Geneva on Friday, the United Nations Committee Against Torture asked China to provide more details of measures it says it has taken to stamp out torture in prisons.

The committee of 10 independent human rights experts told China that charges of ill-treatment of prisoners were so widespread they could not be considered isolated.

A Chinese legal expert attending the Geneva meeting said reports of torture in Chinese jails were "rumours and gossip". But prisoners recently released from Chinese jails have described how electric prods, beatings, prolonged periods of isolation

## Peking admits prisoner torture

Peking CHINESE police torture prisoners to extract confessions, killing or wounding many of their victims, a senior official has revealed.

China had investigated 2,900 cases of "perverting justice for bribes, extorting confessions by torture, illegal detention and neglect of duty" from January to March, Mr Liang Guoqing, the Deputy Chief Procurator, was quoted as saying.

More than 490 cases involved "deaths and injuries as well as serious economic losses", Mr Liang was quoted by the New China News Agency as saying.

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## Hong Kong boat people break out

Hong Kong - About 100 Vietnamese boat people escaped from the Whitehead detention camp in the New Territories shortly after midnight on Saturday by cutting through fences.

Eighteen hours later police said 16 of the men, women and children had been recaptured. About 22,500 people are housed in the camp, most awaiting screening to decide whether they qualify as refugees for resettlement in other countries.

The Hong Kong authorities are concerned that the colony is about to face another influx of boat people. They believe about 640 boat people arrived in April, or about half this year's total so far. (AP)

Angola peace talks agreed

Lisbon - The Government of Angola and the Unita rebels have agreed on a timetable for future peace negotiations to end the country's 15-year civil war (Martha de la Cal writes).

The deal was struck during two days of secret talks last week in Evora, about 90 miles from here. Senhor Durao Barroso, the Portuguese Foreign Secretary, who acted as an intermediary, said the dates could not yet be made public. He said the Luanda Government had presented a list of conditions and Unita had agreed to consider them.

Workers clash with police

Ulsan, South Korea - Workers evicted from Hyundai Heavy Industries, South Korea's biggest shipyard, waged battles with riot police here yesterday.

About 2,000 workers, driven from the yard in a police assault on Saturday, the fourth day of a wildcat strike, threw stones and petrol bombs. Scores of union members still occupying a production plant threatened suicide. (Reuters)

Deputy fills breach after Bogotá killing

Bogotá THE left-wing Colombian movement M 19 buried its assassinated leader, presidential candidate Carlos Pizarro, on Saturday and named a new candidate for elections on May 27.

About 20,000 people escorted Pizarro's coffin on a seven-hour march through the capital to the cemetery, chanting "Carlos, our friend, the people are with you," and "I did my duty for Colombia and they killed me".

Pizarro, aged 38, a guerrilla leader who transformed M 19 into a political party only last month, was shot dead on an aircraft last Thursday by a 21-year-old gunman. He is the third presidential aspirant to

## Flames cast pall over the slums of Delhi

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

IN A fortnight of fires 50,000 Delhi slum-dwellers have been driven out of their wretched under-box huts - the victims, as often as not, of the politics of slum life.

More than 11,000 jhuggis (huts) have been destroyed, leaving a desperate army of homeless people sleeping amid the devastation of what used to be makeshift homes. Black palls of smoke crept across the Delhi sky over the weekend as the incendiary madness continued.

Last Monday 2,000 jhuggis were gutted and 10 people died. On Tuesday another 4,000 were destroyed in three separate fires; on Wednesday 1,200 were burnt. The Delhi fire brigade, which boasts a paltry 160 fire engines in this city of seven million people, often had to let them burn.

Where jhuggis are massed a mafia of thugs and crooks will be found. The *pradhans* are the guttersnipes who are the masters of this misery, extorting a prohibitive 200 rupees (nearly £8) from people seeking the right to occupy 12 square yards of government-owned land.

Jhuggi dwellers are at the mercy of pestilence, fire and government steamrollers. Newspapers often carry photographs of men and women, surrounded by ragged children, picking through the crushed wreckage of their possessions in the wake of an official demolition squad.

Jhuggis - made of tin, mud, bits of brick, cardboard and canvas - continue to spread over vast areas of Delhi. There are 250,000 slum dwellers in the capital.

Two important government buildings have also been damaged in fires, revealing fire safety laws for the force they are. The Government admitted to Parliament that 138 multi-storey buildings in Delhi lacked basic facilities to prevent or fight fires.

Vigyan Bhawan, the Indian Government's main conference centre, was all but destroyed in a fire. And no wonder: it had a combustible false ceiling; its walls were covered in wood panelling; and seating was flammable.

The jhuggi fires are the result of both accidents and malice - mostly the latter. Accidents are usually due to illegal power connections, which are controlled by jhuggi bosses who bribe officials from the power company and then charge slum-dwellers for a "hook-up".

Four men have been arrested for deliberately starting one fire that destroyed several thousand jhuggis in the hope of getting meagre government compensation that is sometimes paid after big disasters. This is one of the main motives for slum fires.

There are other causes, too, involving crooked politicians and bureaucrats who administer parcels of public land as though it were their own. When they want to clear jhuggi-covered property to pursue a more lucrative proposition, there is nothing cheaper, quicker or more effective than a fire.

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Pizarro, aged 38, a guerrilla leader who transformed M 19 into a political party only last month, was shot dead on an aircraft last Thursday by a 21-year-old gunman. He is the third presidential aspirant to

be killed in Colombia in eight months.

During a stop in the march, Pizarro's second-in-command, Señor Antonio Navarro Wolff, aged 41, an engineer and former guerrilla who lost a leg in a grenade attack on a restaurant in 1985, said he would replace him as presidential candidate.

Police have blamed drug traffickers waging a war on the state for Pizarro's murder, but the drug traffickers denied responsibility and said the murder could not have happened without official involvement.

Hundreds of riot police patrolled the city on Saturday, but marchers respected calls by M 19 leaders for calm, and no violence was reported.

Señor Navarro said M 19 would follow the road of peaceful politics which Pizarro had set them on and vowed that Pizarro's death would not go unpunished.

The Government has said it will allow M 19 to name a replacement candidate even though the registration date has passed. M 19 is a minority party and Pizarro polled less than 5 per cent in an opinion poll published a day before his murder.

The procession went on to Bogotá's main cemetery where Pizarro was buried near Luis Carlos Galán, favourite for the ruling Liberal Party's presidential nomination, who was shot dead last August, leading to a war with the drug traffickers believed to be responsible. (Reuters)

## Dublin welcome for democracy

THE European Council expresses its deep satisfaction at developments in Central and Eastern Europe since the Strasbourg European Council. It applauds the continuing process of change in these countries with whose peoples we share a common heritage and culture. This process of change brings ever closer a Europe which, having overcome the unnatural divisions imposed on it by ideology and confrontation, stands united in its commitment to democracy, pluralism, the rule of law, full respect for human rights and the principles of the market economy.

The European Council welcomes in particular the holding of free elections in the German Democratic Republic and Hungary and looks forward to similar developments in the other countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The Community warmly welcomes German unification. It looks forward to the positive and fruitful contribution that all Germans can make following the forthcoming integration of the territory of the GDR into the Community.

We are confident that German unification will be a positive factor in the development of Europe as a whole and of the Community in particular.

A point has now been reached where the continued dynamic development of the Community has become an imperative not only because it corresponds to the direct interest of the 12 member states but also because it has become a crucial element in the progress that is being made in establishing a reliable framework for peace and security in Europe. The European Council therefore agrees that further, decisive steps should be taken towards European unity as envisaged in the Single European Act.

We are pleased that German unification is taking place under a European roof. The Community will ensure that the integration of the territory of the GDR into the Community is accomplished in a smooth and harmonious way.

The European Council is satisfied that this integration will contribute to faster economic growth in the Community and agrees that it will take place in conditions of economic balance and monetary stability.

The integration will become effective as soon as unification is legally established, subject to the necessary transitional arrangements. It will be carried out without a revision of the treaties.

During the period prior to unification the Federal Government will keep the Community fully informed of any relevant measures discussed and agreed between the authorities of the two Germanies for the purpose of aligning their policies and their legislation. Furthermore, the Commission will be fully involved with these discussions.

The movement to restore freedom and democracy in Central and Eastern Europe and the progress already made, and in prospect, in arms negotiations, now make it both possible and necessary to develop a wider framework of peace, security and co-

The EC final statement released in Dublin at the weekend runs to more than 4,000 words. Extracts relevant to EC political union, German unity, European security and aid to Eastern Europe appear here in full

operation for all of Europe. To this end, the Community and its member states will play a leading role in all proceedings and discussions within the CSCE (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe) process and in efforts to establish new political structures or agreements based on the principles of the Helsinki Final Act while maintaining existing security arrangements which member states have.

With regard to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe the European Council welcomes the wide range of measures adopted or put in place over the past months, including the agreement on the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the conclusion of trade and co-operation agreements between the Community and most of those countries, and other important actions in the context of the G-24 co-operation.

The European Council is of the opinion that transfers of private capital and investment towards these countries should be encouraged and invites the Commission to study the implementation of the most appropriate accompanying measures (for example reinsurance, granting of guarantees).

The European Council agrees that the action within the framework of G-24 should be extended to the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania. The Community will work actively for the adoption of an action

plan for assistance to these countries at the forthcoming G-24 ministerial meeting.

Discussions will start forthwith in the Council ... on association agreements with each of these countries of Central and Eastern Europe which include an institutional framework for political dialogue. The Community will work to complete association negotiations with these countries as soon as possible on the understanding that the basic conditions with regard to democratic principles and transition towards a market economy are fulfilled.

The European Council discussed the proposal of President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl on political union and the paper submitted by the Belgian Government on the same subject. In this context the European Council confirmed its commitment to political union and decided on the following steps:

A detailed examination will be put in hand forthwith on the need for possible treaty changes with the aim of strengthening the democratic legitimacy of the union, enabling the Community and its institutions to respond effectively and effectively to the demands of the new situation and assuring unity and coherence in the Community's international action.

Foreign ministers will undertake this examination and analyse and prepare proposals to be discussed at the European Council in June with a view to a decision on the holding of a second inter-governmental conference to work in parallel with the conference on Economic and Monetary Union with a view to ratification by member states in the same time frame. (Reuters)

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## Swiss male bastion clings to tradition

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

FOR the third time in two decades, the sub-canton of Appenzell Inner-Rhoden, the last bastion of Swiss male supremacy, yesterday defiantly refused to give women the vote in local affairs.

The decision was carried by a clear majority of raised hands at the colourful and picturesque annual outdoor *Landsgemeinde* assembly of the 4,000 adult male and sword-carrying citizens - of a total population of some 15,000.

Even women among the guests in a place of honour in the town of Appenzell's square smiled when the official proposal to grant them the vote was rejected. All Swiss women

were given the vote in national matters in 1971. Women in Appenzell Auser-Rhoden, the other half of the canton, were granted the vote in local affairs last year.

The outcome thus leaves the tiny sub-canton, with its predominantly Roman Catholic population and agricultural economy, the only place in the country whose women are not fully enfranchised.

Above all, the solemn ceremony yesterday was the occasion for a final demonstration of fidelity to six centuries of tradition which is esteemed by both sexes.

The men of Appenzell will, however, not have the opportunity to say so yet again. This latest rejection of votes for women will be followed by a submission to the country's supreme court, the Federal Tribunal, asking it to eliminate the anachronism.

With both federal and cantonal governments - including that of Inner-Rhoden itself - firmly advocating equality for women, the court's ruling can hardly be in doubt.

Mr Murphy of Boston, an accountant who commutes to work while listening on earphones, says: "It's amazing what you can hear. I've heard my wife, I've heard stock tips, even people talking about sex. I heard a guy call his home and say 'Honey, I'm going to be late'. He hangs up and a second later he calls his girlfriend and says, 'Honey, I'll be right over'."

Mr Murphy's remarks, reported in a local newspaper this month, brought public calls for action to halt the hobby.

As anyone knows who crosses lines with other users in the jam-

packed New York air waves, the common factor among calls is banality.

"Sure, a lot of it's boring," counters Mr Grove. "But you try it late on a Friday or a Saturday night and that's when it's fun. Then you have the pimps and prostitutes and drug dealers going about their business."

Stationary telephones are another matter. One family in the New York suburbs recently tapped in on what they realized was suspicious talk when their cordless phone picked up their neighbours. They tipped off police and the neighbours were convicted of drug possession. Now the neighbours are suing the eavesdroppers.

From Charles Bremner, New York

THE next time you see someone at the bus-stop wearing earphones and a far-away look, do not assume that music is the source of entertainment. He or she may be enjoying the latest of American hobbies - eavesdropping on telephone calls.

Now that nearly four million Americans use mobile phones and countless more homes boast cordless sets, the air is thick with talk much of it boring but some of it juicy enough for whiling away idle hours, according to amateurs of this new pastime.

Estimates vary, but according to Mr Bob Grove, the publisher of the

monthly *Monitoring Times*, the bible of these vicarious thrill seekers, somewhere between 10 and 20 million people are tuning in to other people's gossip with the help of simple and widely available "scanning" receivers.

"You can say these people are voyeurs if you want," Mr Grove said, over a secure line from his base in North Carolina. "But it's human nature. Suppose you are sitting in a restaurant and you hear someone at the next table say 'Peggy's pregnant but we don't know who the father is', then it's only natural curiosity to want to listen a bit more."

To help out, Mr Grove's company also sells the necessary equip-

ment and books such as *Tune in on Telephone Calls* to help out the neophyte. There is a catch, but it does not annoy Mr Grove too much. Under a 1986 law, it is illegal to listen to cellular-telephone calls, though not to the far shorter-range transmissions from simple cordless sets. These carry only a few hundred yards compared with up to 50 miles for cellular equipment.

The law, say the enthusiasts, represents an unconstitutional infringement on their listening rights and is, anyway, unworkable.

"Nobody asks these transmissions to come into their radios, to enter their homes," Mr Grove says indignantly. No one has yet

been prosecuted for the offence. Unlike Britain, where it is illegal to monitor police frequencies, there is no bar to listening to any radio transmissions in the United States, except the cellular frequencies.

Critics of the booming cell-phone industry say the companies fail to warn customers that eavesdropping is possible. In 1987, a survey in California found that 60 per cent of cellular users were unaware that their conversations could be intercepted.

The industry insists that the technology makes it nearly impossible to listen for any length of time to any one call. This complexity has, for example, prevented police from making use of cellular talk

صكنا من الأصل



## ANC seeks a 'way forward without any bloodshed'

**Cape Town**  
 "IF THERE was a way forward without bloodshed, the African National Congress would 'grab it with both hands', Mr Joe Slovo, the former exiled secretary-general of the until recently banned South African Communist Party said here yesterday.

Addressing his first public rally on home soil for more than 30 years, Mr Slovo added that there was an unstoppable rising tide of freedom in South Africa.

"We have been told by (President) de Klerk that the door is open. We will be ready to walk through that door if we see real prospect towards change," he told about 15,000 supporters at the Mandela sports centre in the heart of the Mitchell's Plain mixed-race township near here.

"Short of that, we will batter it down," he said. "It is not

war talk, it is peace talk. We cannot go to the negotiating table ready to abandon majority rule or forgetting that almost all the wealth is between the hands of the white group." He added that when he fled South Africa in 1963 the cry of anti-apartheid activists was "freedom in our lifetime". Today the cry was "Freedom now".

Mr Slovo is one of five ANC leaders who ended their exile last Friday by returning to South Africa to form part of the ANC team which is to start talks about talks with the Pretoria Government on Wednesday.

The other four, Mr Alfred Nzo, the ANC secretary-general, Mr Thabo Mbeki, head of its international department, Mr Joe Modise, commander of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's military wing, and Miss Ruth Mompati, head of the religion department, shared the platform with him.

Organizers had expected as many as 100,000 people to welcome the leaders home, and blamed the lower turnout on the wintry conditions. Those who did turn up were enthusiastic. Most supporters wore the black, green and yellow colours of the ANC, and the podium was draped in ANC flags and a giant red banner with a star and the hammer and sickle of the Communist Party.

The rally was theoretically illegal because the organizers had not applied to a magistrate for permission to stage it, but police contented themselves with providing security.

After Mr Slovo's address, Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC's deputy president, spoke briefly, revealing that he had been approached by a government minister, whom he did not name, to say that Pretoria was concerned that Mr Slovo had been included in the ANC delegation for the talks. The minister had said it would be difficult for the Government to explain to its supporters that it was talking to communists. (AFP)

● **LONDON:** Mr Oliver Tambo, the ANC's president, has returned to his home and his wife, Adelaide, in London after completing his medical treatment for a stroke in Sweden. (Andrew McEwen writes).

It seems unlikely, however, that he will resume active leadership of the ANC which, for practical purposes has passed to Mr Mandela. An ANC spokesman said Mr Tambo was not yet back at work, although he was in daily touch by telephone. He was continuing his recuperation, but there was no change in his condition.

There has been speculation that Mr Tambo may eventually step down formally to make way for Mr Mandela.

## Waldheim 'linked to Nazis by letter'

**From Susan Elliott, Washington**

THE United States says it has obtained a letter written in 1938 alleging that Mr Kurt Waldheim, the Austrian President, supported the Nazis when he was a student. Publicity of the document, made available by a group of international Jewish organizations, is likely to dim Mr Waldheim's prospects of being struck off a list of Europeans forbidden to visit the US because of their role in the Second World War.

According to a report in *The New York Times*, the author of the letter — the principal of a diplomatic college in Vienna where Mr Waldheim was a student — describes him as a "convicted National Socialist" unable to be active politically for two years because he was on military service in Austria. The letter also says he provided, to fulfil conditions for a scholarship, proof he had four Aryan grandparents.

Mr Waldheim, a former United Nations Secretary-General, and witnesses, including the British publisher Mr George Weidenfeld, who attended the college with Mr Waldheim, have strongly denied the Austrian leader's support for the Nazi movement.

Mr Waldheim has conceded he was a member of the Nazi movement while a student, but he has defended this on the grounds that he always opposed their activities and considered himself an inactive member. The young Waldheim joined the German Army in 1939, a year after Hitler's army annexed Austria.

The US Justice Department, which received the letter from the World Jewish Congress, an umbrella



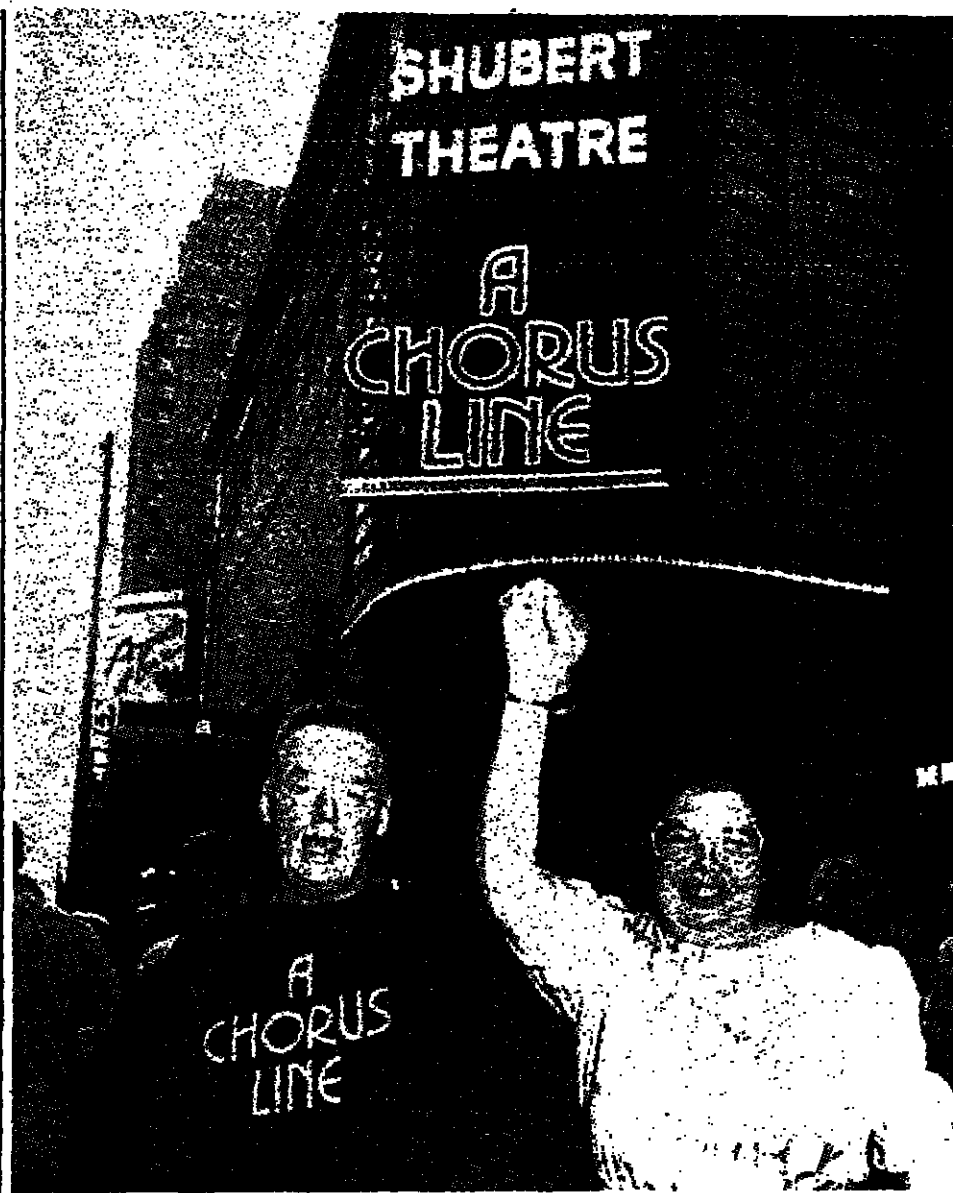
Mr Waldheim: Archive discovery in Vienna

organization of Jewish groups, found evidence four years ago after a vigorous investigation into Mr Waldheim's past that he had taken part in "activities amounting to persecution" of Jews, Greeks and Yugoslavs while he was a member of the German Army.

The same Jewish organization revealed much of the evidence on Mr Waldheim's war record during his election campaign. Mr Waldheim, the first non-Socialist elected as President of Austria since the Second World War, acknowledged he was not completely open about his war activities but denied he was directly involved in any atrocities.

The Austrian Embassy in Washington has said there is no evidence to back allegations that Mr Waldheim was a Nazi supporter during his time at the Consular Academy.

The World Jewish Congress said an American researcher, Mr Richard Mitten, discovered the letter in the archives of the diplomatic college. The document is dated May 18, 1938, and signed by the then principal.



Mr Cockayne and his wife, Betty, ending their *Chorus Line* marathon on Broadway

## Musical fan sees final curtain 338th time

**From James Bone, New York**

THE final curtain fell this weekend on *A Chorus Line*, the longest running show in Broadway history, bringing to a climax the bizarre career of one of Britain's most fanatical theatre-goers.

Mingling among the teary-eyed thespians at the 6,137th and last performance at the Schubert Theatre on New York's Theatre Row on Saturday night, and later at the cast party at Mamma Leone's restaurant, was Mr Stephen Cockayne, a retired Boots marketing manager from Long Eaton, Derbyshire.

For Mr Cockayne, aged 60, the musical, which tells the stories of 17 dancers competing for eight roles in a Broadway production, was never just — in the words of its most famous song — *One Singular Sensation*.

Since it opened on Broadway on July 25, 1975, Mr Cockayne has seen the show 338 times, mostly in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Nottingham, spending an estimated £5,000 tickets in the process.

"If you are a drug addict or a drunk, there is a help-line you can call," he said. "If you are a theatre addict you are on your own. There is no one to help you." Mr Cockayne paid \$500 (£306) for a pair of tickets for Saturday night's benefit performance. And, not

content with just the evening show, he spent another \$100 to attend the matinee the same day. For both performances he wore a formal dinner jacket over his special *A Chorus Line* jersey, a one-off made for him by a friend.

"I love musicals and I love the theatre," he said. "This show is a very professional show, it's very American and it's very New York. It has a lot of things to say. It's about the things of life. It's like watching life going before you. There are points in the show when I go cold," he said.

Mr Cockayne's wife, Betty, has seen the show only about 60 times. She said: "It's my husband. He is crackers about it. I like it very much, but he reads more into it than I do."

Mr Cockayne's obsessive theatre-going dates back to a night in 1947 when, on national service at Aldershot, he was taken by fellow soldiers to the opening night of *Oklahoma* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. He immediately began going to a show every evening, and has never missed an opening night at the Theatre Royal since. When he got married almost 30 years ago, he began to go to the theatre with his wife. "We don't like sport," she said.

After *A Chorus Line*, Mr Cockayne's favourite musical is *West Side Story*, which he

has seen about 150 times. He prefers American to British shows. The hit British musical *Cats* he has seen only once.

"I did like *Phantom of the Opera*, but I was not into *Cats* and *Starlight Express*. My wife liked *Evita* and I didn't think it was too bad. They are a throwback to the old type of theatre, the Ivor Novello thing," he said.

The closing of *A Chorus Line* was also an emotional moment for the New York theatre world. Born out of 40 hours of taped conversations at a dancers' workshop, the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical was the quintessential Broadway show, summing up the frustrations of the thousands of aspirant stars. Its creator, Michael Bennett, died of AIDS in 1987 at the age of 44.

For years, *A Chorus Line* provided a steady cash flow for the impresario who staged the first production, Mr Joseph Papp, director of the New York Shakespeare Festival. The loss of that income comes at an awkward time for Mr Papp, who only last week refused a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts instead of signing a guarantee that he would not sponsor events loosely defined as obscene. A television game-show producer has offered to put up the money instead.

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# KGB chief says he now answers to Gorbachov

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

THE KGB is no longer accountable to the Soviet Communist Party, but to the President and his presidential council, according to Mr Vladimir Kryuchkov, the head of the KGB.

This apparent change in the KGB's status was made known the day after President Gorbachov had issued a decree promoting General Dmitri Yazov, the Defence Minister, to the rank of marshal.

General Yazov's promotion came as preparations were finalized for a big military parade that will be held in Red Square on Victory Day, May 9, the anniversary of the end of what the Soviet Union calls the Great Patriotic War.

When the parade was announced by presidential decree last month, it was partly regarded as a way of placating those Russians who ask, in the light of moves towards German reunification, whether they or the Germans won the war. It was also seen, however, as a gesture by the Kremlin to assure the military that it was

still important and could count on the leadership's enduring support.

A series of developments — some planned, some not — have contributed to a sharp fall in the morale of the Soviet armed forces. They include the sweeping arms and troop cuts offered by President Gorbachov at international negotiations; Soviet troop withdrawals from Afghanistan, Eastern Europe and Mongolia; the questionable viability of the Warsaw Pact after the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe; the evacuation of troops and their dependents from the southern republic of Azerbaijan in January; and the housing and employment problems facing newly demobilized officers.

These difficulties have combined with the outright refusal of many 18-year-olds in the Baltic states to register for military service — and an increase in pacifist sentiment across the country generally — to leave the military confused and uncertain.

Unexpected public criticism of the armed assault on Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, in January, and President Gorbachov's refusal so far to use overt armed forces in the rebel republic of Lithuania have left the Soviet public with the idea that the military has lost much of the political clout it used to enjoy under Brezhnev.

General Yazov's promotion, as well as having symbolic value for the Soviet armed forces in general, may also have personal significance. He has been implicated both in the now vilified decision to use poison gas against civilian demonstrators in the Georgian capital Tbilisi a year ago, and in the order to send tanks against Azerbaijani nationalists in Baku. His role in the first decision in particular has never been fully clarified, and his position as Defence Minister has been considered in jeopardy ever since. He is also identified in the minds of Soviet reformers as one of the Kremlin's leading conservatives.

General Yazov's promotion may be a sign that he has now been cleared by the party of any perceived misdemeanour, or it could indicate simply that the political balance in the Kremlin has tipped in his favour. It might, on the other hand, be the price exacted for his imminent retirement, perhaps after he has presided over the May 9 parade.

Details of the changed accountability of the KGB were given by Mr Kryuchkov in an interview with Tass, reported yesterday, which claimed also that the role of the KGB was being rethought.

Mr Kryuchkov was quoted by Tass as saying that the KGB's most important function now would be "the preparation of information for the Soviet President". It was particularly important "in this complicated and volatile situation", he said, that state bodies and other decision-makers had "precise, verified and reliable information". He was also quoted as saying that the KGB's "analytical services" could draw conclusions and give advice.

He stressed that the work of the KGB, which many regard as a law unto itself, would be regulated and scrutinized by the Supreme Soviet under a new law. Whether the shift to state and parliamentary oversight makes any practical difference, however, depends on whether the long-promised separation of party, state and parliamentary powers is ever realized.



President Gorbachov faces Herr Lothar de Maizière, East Germany's Prime Minister, across the table in Moscow at the start of their first talks

## Enterprise fills Moscow information vacuum

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

ONE of the books essential to foreigners in the Soviet capital and sought-after by Russians is *Information Moscow*, which is printed in Britain and sells for hard currency.

In a city still without comprehensive telephone directories, the book lists government offices, travel agencies, hotels, embassies and their staff, and all resident journalists. Its other virtue, though this is less often recognized, is that it is one of the few purely factual sources of information available in the Soviet Union even now. It can be taken at face value.

*Glasnost* ended the obvious dearth of information in Moscow, and not just because it brought diversity to the official press and fostered an unofficial press that dealt with everything from the monarchist movement to Mrs Raisa Gorbachov's image. Correspondents are now bombarded with invitations to press conferences and rung up — or even visited — several times a day by individuals trying to sell information or advertise their cause.

We could all spend several hours a day attending officially sponsored press events alone. Regular briefings by the Interior Ministry and the Foreign Ministry are interspersed with invitations to question visiting foreign statesmen, the Moscow city authorities, or the editor of *Pravda*. We are summoned by telephone, telex or Tass to attend the signings of joint venture agreements or — since Mr Gorbachov made himself Executive President — hear his newly appointed press spokesman, Mr Arkadi Maslennikov, set out the thoughts of his chief.

There is little ambiguity about where the information comes from, or whose interests it represents. Although there are some lines to be read between and some pinches of salt to be taken, the comments can be quoted and interpreted. Last week Mr Maslennikov made an impressive effort to present Mr Gorbachov's latest economic remarks as indicating a speeding-up of reform.

Yet they are only in government because of the workers, because of the union. And the union, in turn, can withdraw its support.

Trades unions are now under stress everywhere. Sweden has for long been an example for Solidarity, with the union federation helping to shape legislation and in constant contact with the Social Democratic Government.

But the Swedish consensus is breaking down as the Government is forced to consider introducing more market elements. Solidarity-as-a-union (its internal politics a mixed bag of social democracy, Christian democracy and nationalism) is losing its common language with Solidarity-as-a-government. In 1981 the dissident Mr Jacek Kuron celebrated his speech by downing a bottle of Johnny Walker with his Solidarity cronies; in 1990 Labour Minister Kuron (still in jeans, of course) got into his official Lancia and was driven back to his plush offices in Warsaw.

First, though, he had to admit to the Solidarity congress that the Government had not yet worked out a proper social

when every adjective ("careful", "well-thought-out", "measured") suggested a slowing down. But the game was well played by both sides.

The problems with *glasnost* lie elsewhere. Last Wednesday, in the first break during the Chernobyl debate in Parliament, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister, appeared unannounced in the lobby. He was at once surrounded by reporters and proceeded to comment for more than an hour on Chernobyl, Lithuania and economic reform.

This raised innumerable questions, the main one being why he had chosen to walk the lobbies then. He has been under the political weather



Mr Ryzhkov: Puzzle over unannounced appearance

recently and his sudden accessibility coincided with Mr Gorbachov's first trip since he became President.

On Chernobyl, Mr Ryzhkov clearly wanted to defend his role as chairman of the original emergency commission after the disaster, which has been charged with delay and incompetence. His remarks on Lithuania — the clearest statement to date that Lithuania had to return to the status quo before March 11 if Moscow was to agree to talks — seemed to express leadership policy.

On the economy, where he expressed himself in favour of "moderation", against the package, torn between the desire for immediate change and fears of giving too big a shock to society. (Reuter)

unclear. Was he speaking for himself, for the Government, for the Politburo? Was he campaigning, as a Western politician might, against his rumoured dismissal? Was he, perhaps, communicating a message from the leadership? Or was he simply not adept enough at dealing with the press to extricate himself?

Mr Ryzhkov provided last week's biggest information mystery, but the semi-official news agency, *Interfax*, ran him a close second.

*Glasnost* and the search for hard currency earnings have encouraged the establishment of new information agencies, usually with some official tie-in and a degree of editorial independence. The difficulty lies in determining where the official tie-in stops and the independence starts, and where the quest for hard currency fits in.

For two days, *Interfax* and its chief rival called, confusingly, *Post Factum*, exchanged affirmations and denials that Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Foreign Minister, was about to retire. They also reported on Lithuania and the likelihood of Moscow-Vilnius talks. Some of the reports are accurate, others not.

The exceptions to *glasnost* would come almost as a relief, were the authorities not so keen to present them as something else. When Mr Gorbachov went to Sverdlovsk last week, no foreign journalists went with him. Sverdlovsk has long been a closed city, but we were told that the visit was too short, there would be nothing to see.

Least honest of all is the current position with Lithuania. In common with every troubled republic of the Soviet empire, it has been summarily closed to foreign correspondents. For the past two weeks, however, groups of Moscow-based reporters, shepherded by the Foreign Ministry, have been admitted for a few days. The impression is thereby created that Lithuania is "open", when it is in fact closed — with a seal that is increasingly hermetic.

## Pravda fears economy on skids

Moscow

THE Communist Party daily *Pravda* yesterday painted a picture of the Soviet economy running out of control, adding to the pressure for an overhaul of the entire system.

*Pravda* said first-quarter statistics for 1990 showed nose-diving production, rising foreign debt, a mounting trade

deficit with the West and runaway inflation.

At the same time the country's credit-worthiness was being increasingly challenged by Western bankers, cramping the Kremlin's ability to buy time by easing enormous demand for consumer goods.

The gloomy economic portrait follows signs of serious

disagreement at the highest levels of government, forcing delays in the release of a radical economic programme.

President Gorbachov's advisory council has so far failed to complete work on the package, torn between the desire for immediate change and fears of giving too big a shock to society. (Reuter)

## Ukrainian party 'plotting for opposition ban'

From Robert Seely, Kiev

SECRET Communist Party plans to undermine nationalist support in the western Ukraine have been leaked to the republic's main opposition group. Among other actions, the central committee of the Ukrainian party proposes to disband its "disloyal" cells, sack senior pro-democracy Communists, and press for main opposition groups to be outlawed.

The battle plans, leaked to a senior official from Rukh, the Ukrainian popular movement, have been drawn up to stamp out an increasingly vocal pro-independence organization in the western Ukraine. The document is reported to have been read to a closed session of key party members from the republic's party central committee in Kiev within the past 10 days.

Copies of the statement were also said to have been sent to the 27 regional party bosses throughout the republic and to "ideological" ministries, such as education and culture. Details of the meeting were written down by a pro-Rukh Communist insider and given to the group's election organizer, Mr Sergei Odarych, last week.

In total, the central committee has drawn up a 12-point action plan, to be monitored by a special team headed by the conservative hardliner, Mr Yuri Yelchenko. It promises to "analyse" the work of — thought to be a euphemism for "dismiss" — newspaper editors, industrial managers and party officials who are thought to belong to the pro-democracy movement.

A special party fund will pay high-ranking party bosses who have lost their seats in the recent elections. The mass media will be "asked" to "give appropriate appraisal of events in councils", suggesting that pro-democracy and pro-independence councillors are to be marginalized in newspaper and television reports. The same order also applies to the myriad of unofficial newspapers and magazines that have appeared in recent months.

Other actions will include a tightening up of ideological work in Komsomol (the Young Communist League) and the strengthening of committee leaderships on local councils.

However, the most far-reaching plans relate to what appears to be an attempt to disband the opposition groups altogether. The two most important are Rukh and the

Ukraine Helsinki Union, which will between them control almost 30 per cent of the Ukrainian supreme soviet (parliament) when it first convenes on May 15 in Kiev. The central committee proposes "to ask the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet to analyse the legality of the creation of social organizations".

Separatist-minded councils will also face legal pressure from the authorities. Those which come under suspicion, who will include any who fly the blue and yellow flags of independent Ukraine rather than the red and blue communist version, could find their decisions outlawed.

The central committee said that it would "declare unlawful the decisions of local councils who do not conform to the constitution". In line with the tougher regime, the presidium last week ordered a crackdown on organizers of unauthorized rallies and officials aiding them.

## Chernobyl hero has transplant

Seattle

A SOVIET pilot who got radiation poisoning from his efforts to stem the Chernobyl nuclear disaster was described as relieved, as the wait began to see if new bone marrow will save his life.

Mr Anatoly Grishchenko, aged 53, who suffers from a pre-leukaemia condition, has been honoured in the Soviet Union for his work to put a cement cap on the reactor.

In the four days after the explosion and fire, Mr Grishchenko made five flights over Chernobyl through hot, intensely radioactive gases spewing from the plant, to survey the damage and to dump tons of sand and wet concrete.

He received the marrow in an eight-hour procedure completed on Saturday, said Miss Susan Edmonds, spokeswoman for the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Centre. "There are no problems," she said. "The next step is to see if the marrow will grow."

The marrow was taken from the hip of an anonymous 42-year-old Frenchwoman early on Friday in Besancon, France, and flown to Seattle, one day after the fourth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. (AP)

## Latvians consider reshaped Soviet Union

From Anatol Lieven, Riga

A QUESTION of crucial importance to the countries now included in the Soviet Union lurched into the open at a meeting of Latvian Popular Front deputies in Riga yesterday: the possibility of a future Soviet "confederation" to replace the present "union".

The draft resolution on independence, which the Popular Front majority will present to the Latvian supreme soviet when it meets on Thursday, makes no mention of any long-term constitutional link between Latvia and the Soviet Union. It declares Latvian sovereignty on the Lithuanian pattern: unlike Lithuania, but like Estonia, it establishes a period of transition towards the realization of that sovereignty.

However, at the weekend a Latvian delegation visited Moscow to hold discussions with Soviet officials concerning a proposal for confederation. This had been put forward to Mr Gorbachov at a meeting on April 19 by members of the present, Communist government of Latvia, which is certain to be largely replaced when the supreme soviet meets.

The delegation consisted of three Latvian government representatives, including Mr Mirdzis Ramans, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Eizans Poies, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Janis Abolins, the Economy Minister. The latter is expected to remain in the new government and Popular Front deputies believe that the confederation plan may have been hatched between him and Mr Breznev, the outgoing Prime Minister.

The Latvian delegation also included two Popular Front deputies, Mr Ilmar Biser and Mr Mavrek Wolfson, who claimed that they learned of the confederation idea only on the flight to Moscow.

Reporting to the Popular Front deputies yesterday, Mr Biser said that the confederation idea was raised after Latvian representatives had rejected Mr Gorbachov's offer on April 19 of "special status within the Soviet Union".

Mr Gorbachov agreed that a "confederation" might be possible, and representatives were appointed on both sides to discuss it further.

Mr Biser told the meeting yesterday that, despite having been taken by surprise by the plan, he gave it his full support. He said that at the meeting they had made it quite clear that the Latvian concept of a confederation was of an agreement between two equal and sovereign states. He said: "The other side had a different conception, but listened to us with great attention."

Mr Biser said the next meeting to discuss this issue is planned for May 15, and the new Latvian government will have to decide whether to go through with this.

Among the Popular Front deputies who support the idea that the Latvian declaration of independence should be accompanied by a proposal of confederation to Moscow is international lawyer Dr Juris Boya. He did not rule out the possibility that such a confederation might include some sort of representative body in Moscow "on the pattern of the European parliament".

A Latvian-American analyst commenting on the Latvian proposal yesterday said that in so far as it might be acceptable to Moscow, "there could be a great deal of pressure not just on Latvia but also on Lithuania to go this way. On the other hand, it might give the Lithuanians an honourable way out of their present situation."

## Solidarity shows strain of trying to fill democratic vacuum

From Roger Boyes, Gdansk

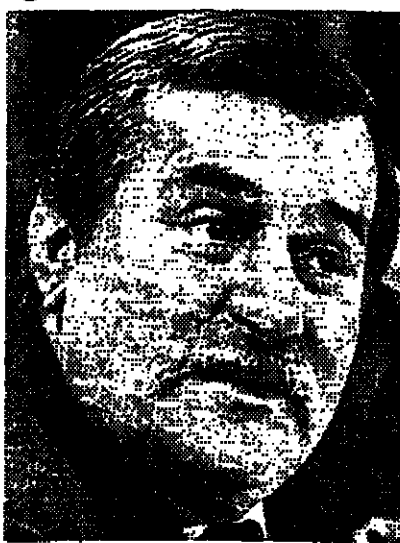
THE Solidarity congress which ended here last week raised some important questions, not only about the dismantling of communism, but also about the frailty of the new democracy.

Throughout there was a steady throbbing of criticism against the whole Government. Solidarity as a union is putting itself in opposition to Solidarity as government, thus exposing one of the central weaknesses of the 1989 East European revolution.

Communism, as a system of rule, has been shattered; parliaments have replaced politburos, prime ministers have gained new strengths; a purge of communist-dominated institutions has been set in motion. But no significant opposition parties have emerged.

The fall of communism discredits most left-wing parties, at least for the time being. For the most part, either the new leaderships are edging towards grand coalitions, or a dominant revolutionary body (perhaps containing the seeds of several parties) is filling the seats vacated by the communists.

Poland is in the most complex position. Its revolution was driven by the energy of workers, yet its Govern-



Divided they rule: Mr Walesa and Mr Mazowiecki, twin pillars of Solidarity's key problem — having to be in opposition to itself

ment is committed to unemployment and price rises. The result is a vague sense of betrayal.

That is one reason Mr Lech Walesa, re-elected chairman of Solidarity, chose to attack intellectuals during the congress. He was piqued, of course, by



suggestions that he might not be bright enough to be president.

"Dear intellectuals," he sneered, "I can read, you know. I practise every night." But the real point was that the former intellectual advisers to Solidarity — Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki and Profes-

sor Bronislaw Geremek — are now at the core of government, respectively Prime Minister and head of the Solidarity parliamentary caucus.

Yet they are only in government because of the workers, because of the union. And the union, in turn, can withdraw its support.

Trades unions are now under stress everywhere. Sweden has for long been an example for Solidarity, with the union federation helping to shape legislation and in constant contact with the Social Democratic Government.

But the Swedish consensus is breaking down as the Government is forced to consider introducing more market elements. Solidarity-as-a-union (its internal politics a mixed bag of social democracy, Christian democracy and nationalism) is losing its common language with Solidarity-as-a-government. In 1981 the dissident Mr Jacek Kuron celebrated his speech by downing a bottle of Johnny Walker with his Solidarity cronies; in 1990 Labour Minister Kuron (still in jeans, of course) got into his official Lancia and was driven back to his plush offices in Warsaw.

First, though, he had to admit to the Solidarity congress that the Government had not yet worked out a proper social

welfare system: market reforms were speeding ahead and people were dropping by the wayside already.

Even M Michel Camdessus, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, concedes that a social welfare network has to be in place as the new democracies move towards the market. Yet as long as the free trades unions are merely supportive of government, there is no pressure to do so.

Mr Walesa's model for Solidarity is probably closer to the AFL-CIO, the US union federation, a muscular organization functioning in an aggressive market economy. It has a lobby in government, sponsors politicians and cannot be described as wishy-washy left-wing.

The strike weapon is all very well against rich, exploitative management, but against a churchmouse-poor government, populated by Solidarity sympathizers, conventional strikes seem at the best insensitive.

Mr Walesa does not have much of a grasp of bread and butter union issues — he dodged questions on pensions and rights for disabled workers. Instead he wants to use the union as a springboard for the presidency of Poland.

That, he argues, would put Solidarity in the vanguard of change again. Mr

Walesa, as even his political friends say, may be autocratic, conceited and personally ambitious, but he is not responsible for the current crisis of identity in the union. The problems are rooted in 45 years of communist control and dislocation.

The Marxist ideology was grafted on to essentially peasant society in Poland, Hungary and the Balkan states. The newly created working class, wrenched from the farms and housed in vast suburban slums, were shepherded into neater unions that did little more than organize Black Sea holidays.

Thanks to Mr Walesa and Solidarity the workers of Eastern Europe have now found a voice. But they are being asked almost immediately to muzzle themselves, to support governments that are in certain key respects anti-worker.

In the bad old days, the workers tumbled on to the streets every time the communists announced a big price rise. Now prices go up daily and wages are effectively frozen — all by a Solidarity-sponsored Government.

The workers are confused, but mainly they are angry. Many give up and emigrate. But this does little to ease the pressure cooker at home: the workers of Poland are reaching boiling point.



# Reform gains pace in enclave of Stalinism

DESPITE 40 years of Stalinism and a material backwardness which is the most serious in Europe, the Albanians have preserved the hospitable traditions which Byron, Edith Durham and, during the Second World War, the pick of the Special Operations Executive found so winning.

When a foreigner enters an Albanian home, no easy matter given the controlled nature of society here, he is nothing less than a sacred guest. When he leaves, he will carry greetings, not only to his country, but also to his parents; if there is a garden, his patriarchal host will give him a rose, symbol of the hope that he will return one day.

Unfortunately, the new order superimposes other conditions. His host will be questioned closely by "neighbours" who have a habit of dropping in a few minutes after the foreigner has arrived. Attempts to renew contact by telephone are invariably fruitless. As the Albanian-lorry drivers, who regularly travel by Italian ship to Trieste to pick up Danish refrigerators know all too well, the eyes of the *sigurime* (secret police) are all-seeing.

On board the ships of the Venice-based Adriatic Line, their agents masquerade as engineering students, fashionably dressed in white socks. Only when the ship reaches Durres, on the Albanian coast, do they give themselves away by producing two-way radios.

In Tirana, officials claim that unlike the detested Romanian Securitate, the *sigurime* are "not a military caste" but "part of the people". But in a country where poverty is still widespread and where many have access to Italian, Yugoslav and Greek television programmes, resentment towards a privileged elite appears to be growing.

The faces which greet official cars in villages betray little respect. Even conscripts look with hostility on the Tirana limousines of VIPs.

However, unlike Romania's Ceausescu, Mr Ramiz Alia, the Albanian leader, enjoys widespread respect. In particular, young Albanians who have few good words for communism can be heard pinning their hopes on his apparently sincere commitment to reform.

Unfortunately, the reforms announced by Mr Alia last week after the tenth plenum of the ruling Central Committee are unlikely to be enough for the younger generation.

Mr Alia is clearly under pressure from two directions

Change is in the air in Albania and, with it, the first public signs of discontent. Richard Bassett reports from the capital, Tirana

to change the existing structures. A generation of university students, having watched on Italian TV the events of last winter in Eastern Europe, is demanding democracy. There are many reports from Albanians of demonstrations in Kavaje and in Shkoder.

Small bombs have been hurled at Stalin's bust in Tirana and the late communist leader Enver Hoxha's bookshop in Tirana. The bookshop, housed in Hoxha's former tobacco shop, where the founder of modern Stalinist Albania worked before the war, is a particularly vulnerable monument. For the past two weeks, plain-clothed policemen have mounted an hourly guard opposite its crumbling facade.

More critical for Mr Alia, however, is the pressure for economic reform from a new generation of technocrats within the ruling elite. They are mostly sons of former ministers from families which remain powerbrokers.

They are well-educated and have enjoyed the opportunity of travel abroad. To the alarm of an older generation here, they view with increasing anxiety the backward state of their country. They are above all Albanian patriots.

To this end, Mr Alia called, during the plenum for the re-establishing of diplomatic relations with the superpowers. Albania is also keen to resume links with Britain and negotiate a resolution to the Corfu Channel incident. Albanian gold reserves were blocked by Britain in retaliation for Tirana's refusal to accept responsibility for the incident in 1946.

France and Italy have long-established embassies. The

Greek and Italian embassies are regularly besieged by would-be refugees. One Albanian family has been living in the Italian Embassy for several years, unable to leave with any guarantee of safety. The Greek Embassy has had to cope with people who clamber through the barbed-wire fence and sneak past sentries to seek political asylum.

Mr Alia and his closest colleagues know that, without serious reforms, discontent cannot be controlled much longer. But in attempting to grant concessions, he appears hindered by the legacy of Hoxha, whose apparatus, rumoured to be well-organized by his widow, is unwilling to share power and embrace change.

The apparatus is particularly strongly represented in the interior and foreign ministries, though its influence seems to be waning in the younger Economics Ministry. But it still wields tremendous influence over lives of Albanians, and foreigners lucky enough to receive an official invitation to the country.

Last week it appeared that elements within the apparatus were so opposed to the reforms that they were even prepared to attempt to suppress news of Mr Alia's speech after the plenum to foreigners visiting Tirana.

The younger generation is increasingly irritated by this refusal to change old methods of dealing with foreigners. To the visible horror of the older generation, many of these young technocrats are also supporters of religion, and refuse, even in public, to state the official line that the Albanian people were "never religious". This year Easter

was celebrated in some village houses by old priests. According to a French diplomat in Tirana, in one village near Elbasan an Orthodox priest helped celebrate a service. Three of his fingers had been cut off by the Communists in the 1950s.

It is the memory of these cruelties which gives rise to the all-pervasive fear which grips the younger generation despite their impatience for change. Students tell of friends condemned to 25 years in prison simply for encouraging a demonstration.

But fear is not only the prerogative of the younger generation of Albanians. The authorities, too, have shown in the past few days signs of unease. There are more guards in Tirana this week than last.

Next month, for the first time, there will be no official celebration on May 1 of the workers' holiday in Albania's cities. The students are being organized into groups to go for "walks and picnics" in the mountains in an attempt to avoid any potentially inflammatory incidents.

Meanwhile, Tirana is a city of rumours. One evening a man was dragged screaming from the civic authority's headquarters behind Skanderbeg Square. Two civilians bundled him into a bus which then drove off. The crowd which had gathered discreetly to watch this resumed appearance which suggested they had seen nothing unusual. The Albanians, long used to living discreetly under repression, show in a sudden change of glance when it is safe to talk or not.

Despite the sale of millions of copies of Hoxha's *The Anglo-American Threat*, a tale of "wicked, chocolate-munching" British cavalry officers bent on subverting Albanian democracy, the Albanians regard the British with the deepest respect. In the language of present day Albania no one says Britain is a "democratic" country, but rather that it is "one of the most developed" countries in the world. This is the highest compliment Albanians can give. They hope that it will not be too long before their land, too, becomes a "developed" country.



Sympathizers of a Cracow political cabaret holding effigies of former Soviet Presidents Stalin, Brezhnev and Khrushchev, parodying a May 1 march outside the former Communist Party Central Committee HQ in Warsaw

## Thousands protest in Romania

Timisoara THOUSANDS of demonstrators staged anti-government rallies in at least four Romanian towns yesterday to demand the sacking of Mr Ion Iliescu, the interim President.

About 15,000 people in the Western city of Timisoara, birthplace of the December uprising which toppled Nicolae Ceausescu, the executed dictator, denounced Mr Iliescu and his ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) as neo-communists.

Protests have increased over the past week in advance of the country's first free elections for more than half a century, on May 20, in which Mr Iliescu is the Front's presidential candidate.

Demonstrators jammed the ornate Opera Square in the shadow of the towering cathedral chanting "Down with

Iliescu" and "NSF is another name for the Romanian Communist Party".

Mr George Serban, a leader of Timisoara's main opposition group, told the cheering crowd: "If the former nomenclatura (Communist Party establishment) holds on to power, then there was no revolution in Romania. Then it was merely a popular revolt followed by a coup."

Posters reading "Down with Iliescu", "Iliescu, another Ceausescu", "Iliescu KGB" and "Down with the Securitate" were brandished by the crowd. They also waved banners saying: "We don't want communism with a human face", and "The NSF is an offspring of communism".

Mrs Doina Cornea, a dissident of long standing under the old regime, was given an ovation when she spoke up in

support of anti-government demonstrators in Bucharest and called for the fight against communism to continue.

The crowd also applauded speakers from the new National Alliance of the Timisoara Declaration, which was set up on Saturday, and Mr Nica Leon, the National Liberal Party chairman.

Opera Square, where flowers and crosses commemorate the scores of people killed last December, was filled with the amplified sounds of revolutionary chants recorded during the uprising.

Mr Serban is vice-president of the National Alliance for the Timisoara Declaration, which is made up of the city's main opposition groups.

The group, a rallying point for anti-Front demonstrators and opposition parties, demands that former Com-

munist officials should be banned from standing for election to public office for three electoral terms.

Opponents of the Front accuse it of harbouring former Communists and of wanting to introduce a new type of communism in Romania. The Front rejects the charges.

At Constanta, Romania's main Black Sea port, thousands of anti-government demonstrators and Front supporters shouted insults at each other.

In the Transylvanian town of Cluj, rival demonstrators confronted each other but there were no reports of violence. Demonstrators in Bucharest, who have massed in the central University Square for eight days, hung up a banner proclaiming "Neo-communist-free zone of Romania". (Reuters, AFP)

## Moscow joins in condemning US

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

TOP-level Soviet-Syrian talks here at the weekend brought a strong condemnation of US policy in the Middle East, but no agreement by Moscow to curb the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

After four hours of what seem at times to have been stormy talks, Tass said President Gorbachev and President Assad of Syria had agreed US policy in the Middle East was "even worse than that of the previous Administration". As a result, "Israeli leaders have no incentive to search for a real way out of the deadlock. Their actions are aggressive."

This is the strongest criticism of the United States

leadership to emerge from the Kremlin for some time, but it is unclear whether it reflected real Soviet unhappiness with US policy in the Middle East or on Lithuania — or whether it was a concession by Mr Gorbachev to a disgruntled Syrian leader concerned that Soviet military and moral support was at risk.

During the meeting Mr Gorbachev also went out of his way to defend the socialist credentials of reform efforts in the Soviet Union, a move which could have been addressed as much to Soviet as to Arab opinion.

President Assad, who was making his first visit to Moscow for three years, made representations about the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, a subject which has brought bitter complaints from several Arab countries since the number of emigrants started to increase two years ago.

Tass said Mr Gorbachev had appreciated the Syrian position but "denied all allegations about the existence of any 'collusion' between the Soviet Union and the United States".

President Assad was accompanied by his defence and foreign ministers, who met their Soviet counterparts. It was possible to divine from Soviet media reports a high level of concern on the part of Syria that Moscow was not doing enough to support the Arab cause and might even be preparing to "sell-out" to the United States in the Middle East. This is one of the few regions of the world where tension has not diminished over the past two years, and it will be discussed at next month's Washington summit.

Jerusalem: Israeli officials said yesterday that Bulgaria would restore diplomatic relations with Israel this week, the fourth reformist government in East Europe to end a 23-year break in ties.

And Nicaragua, led by newly-elected President Chamorro, has also decided to resume relations with the Jewish state. Mr Moti Amichai, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said. (Reuters)

## Second jail protest in France

Lille — Inmates held a rooftop protest at a jail in the northern French town of Douai yesterday, hours after a similar demonstration ended at a prison 40 miles away. Police said 50 prisoners refused to return to their cells after exercise. (Reuters)

## Calm returns

Kathmandu — Nepalese police, who stopped work after mobs killed eight colleagues, have resumed work as heavy rains and a strict curfew restored calm after weeks of often-violent pro-democracy protests. (Reuters)

## Somali floods

Mogadishu — Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated after heavy flooding in the normally arid southern Somalia area, where scores of villages have been submerged or isolated. (Reuters)

## Change of tack

Phnom Penh — The Khmer Rouge is shifting its strategy from terror to propaganda to try to gain a strong rural foothold in advance of possible elections, Cambodian officials and diplomats said here. (AFP)

## Briton honoured

Tokyo — Japan has announced the 4,495 recipients of its annual spring awards. Among 23 foreigners cited is Mr Julian Ridsdale, head of the Britain-Japan Parliamentary Union. (AP)

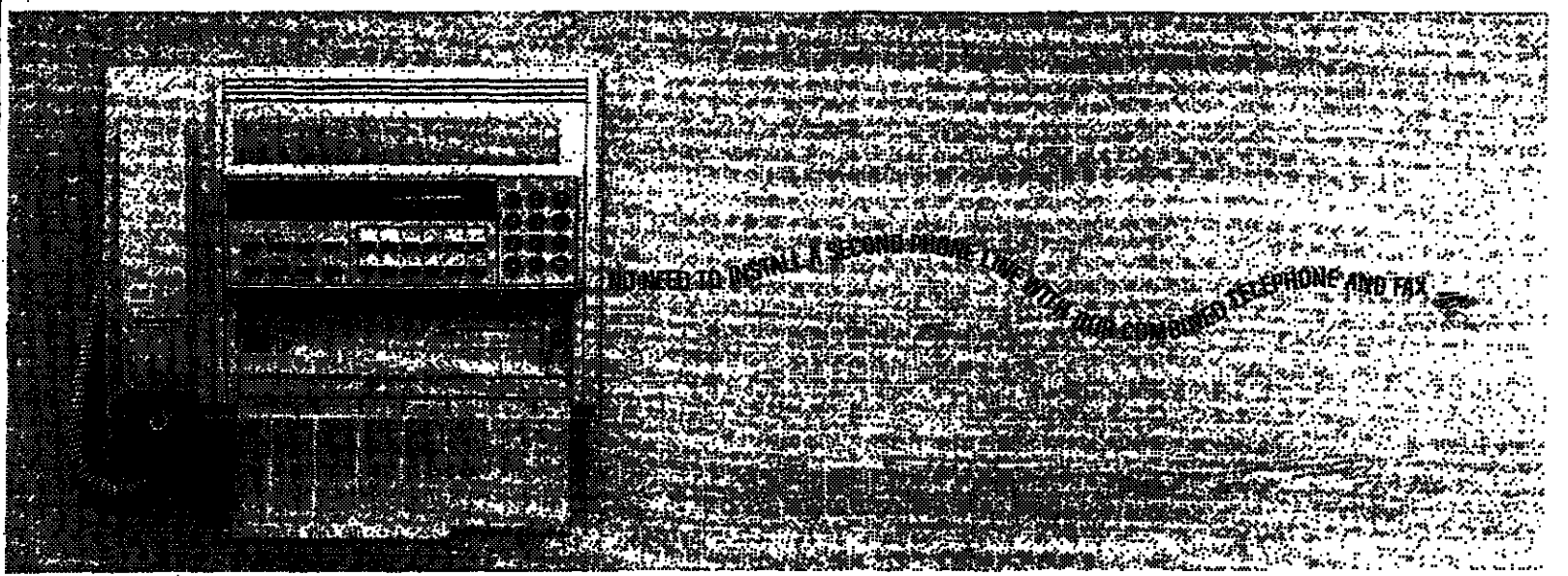
## Party disbands

Helelsinki — Finland's Communist Party, founded 72 years ago, has been disbanded and replaced by the Left-Wing Union in an attempt to save the socialist movement. (AP)

## Exit ban

Jammu, India — The Government has banned residents of Kashmir from leaving the disputed region, which is torn by a violent Muslim separatist revolt. (Reuters)

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# Thatcher calls their bluff

Conor Cruise O'Brien sees no substance in the Paris-Bonn enthusiasm for Euro unity

Ms Thatcher's political troubles are manifold and grave, but surely the least among them is her supposed isolation over a hypothetical "Euro" political unity.

It is true that she does not want to give up the sovereignty of her country. But no European leader wants to make such a concession; no European country is prepared for anything of the kind. This should become apparent when the foreign ministers report on the six-week study period ordered by the Council in Dublin.

The illusion of an impending United States of Europe - Chancellor Kohl's phrase - has been engendered by the French and German governments for reasons which are quite different but capable of being expressed, for the moment, in terms of a joint aspiration towards European political unity.

On the German side, to appear to take the lead in a supposed surge towards European unity meets the needs of the real surge, which is towards German unity. The notion of European unity is used to put to rest the nagging fears which the notion of a united Germany arouses in the bosoms of other Europeans. Herr Kohl believes such fears are groundless, for this united Germany will be part of a United States of Europe: no more of a menace to other European states than the state of Pennsylvania is to Delaware.

The French have different reasons for being enthusiastic about European unity. They see it as a means of keeping a united Germany under control. Their politicians and diplomats have long believed themselves to be exerting some kind of control over West Germany through the institutions of the Community. That control now needs to be strengthened so that an enlarged Germany can still be securely "enclosed".

The French have a pertinent metaphor about a horse. French officials like to explain - to non-Frenchmen - the concept that is, in their view, central to the working of the Community. This is the concept of a "partnership between horse and rider". The horse is German economic strength; the rider is French political intelligence. As it happens, the physical appearance of the present leaders of the two nations embodies this metaphor, with Herr Kohl easily perceived as the massive, ponderous horse, and Mitterrand the crafty little jockey.

To those of us who are not French, the idea of France being in a position of control over West Germany and about to extend that control over a united Germany may not seem very plausible. But to the French it is congenial, and therefore credible. They find the idea of European political unity acceptable, not because they have

the slightest intention of abandoning any jot or tittle of French sovereignty, but because they see political unity as a smart wheeze for curbing the exercise of German sovereignty. When Mitterrand and Herr Kohl make a joint statement on European political unity, the French see their clever round by the nose. This naturally enhances their affection and esteem for him.

Of its nature, the Franco-German alliance on European political unity cannot have a long life. Its maximum duration will be the same as that of the "two-plus-four" talks on German unity. Once those talks have resulted in agreement, the usefulness of European political unity as a topic of conversation will be at an end as far as Germany is concerned. And then the clever jockey in the tricolour silks will find that he is riding for a fall.

In the meantime, the British Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, should not find the discussions of the foreign ministers on political unity too difficult. Nobody really wants a United States of Europe. Even Herr Kohl has no intention of allowing his own office to dwindle to that of a state governor under a European president possessing powers, authority and prestige similar to those of the president of the United States of America.

At the meetings of the foreign ministers, any proposals from the German side are likely to be cosmetic, corresponding to the essentially cosmetic nature of the whole exercise from a German point of view. As for the French, it will tax their political intelligence to come up with the formula they need, which is one that will leave French sovereignty intact while tying down the Germans.

By requiring the foreign ministers to examine the question and report back, Mrs Thatcher has called the Franco-German bluff over political unity and has put Mr Hurd in a strong position. When Mrs Thatcher said "no political unity", she meant what she said. But when President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl said "political unity", they meant a lot less than what they appeared to be saying. Just how much less will emerge from the meetings of the foreign ministers.

I expect there will be some tinkering with the European Parliament to make it look a little bit less of a nonsense than it is at present, but any extension of the powers of the European Parliament is likely to be at the expense of the Commission, rather than of national parliaments. Mr Hurd will have little difficulty in fending off threats to the British crown and parliament.

In fact, he should have quite an enjoyable time.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

The cost of the Strangeways riot has been variously estimated at sums between £6 million and £20 million. This "investment" (to use the term preferred by forward-thinking people for public-sector subsidies) will be made by the taxpayer. So it was as a shareholder, so to speak, that I studied the newspaper picture of one of the prisoners who have triggered this investment. A glance at his face did not encourage confidence that such of his life as remains to be lived is likely to justify so much expenditure. The thought occurred that the project ought to be scrapped.

And was banished. The thought occurs often and is always banished, for I am not a fascist, merely a suppressed fascist like everyone else.

I first faced this problem as an MP. Of my 100,000 constituents, I estimate that 99,950 generated 1 per cent of the constituency work. This was not because they had no problems, but because they were disposed to sort them out for themselves. This meant that when they should judge that their MP should assist, their request for help was realistic and could be handled with dispatch.

That left 50 constituents, who caused 99 per cent of my work. The lady who refused to accept that her rising damp was not the government's fault; the man who insisted that the Derbyshire Constabulary should fetch somebody from Tanzania; the woman who just kept getting drunk and into new debt every time she was bailed out of her existing debt...

My constituency surgeries were crowded, but always with the same people. And of course the buck they passed did not stop on my desk, or my secretary's (its next stop). On their behalf copious correspondence flowed to and from cabinet ministers, councillors, chief constables and directors of housing. And the buck did not stop with them, either. Memos and phone calls surged between their mahogany desks and the humbler counters of junior clerks, local housing officers, police constables and social workers... all in the cause of the Famous Five.

The total cost of their calls upon the state and its agents probably ran into millions of pounds every year, and you may think it cheaper just to have given them the money. But poverty was not the cause of their problems, though for many it was the result.

Mental instability was their problem. They were crackers. Quite a few people are. Typically, it would take me six months' or a year's work in each case to realize this. Patiently, one would find practical solutions to one problem after another. Gradually the conviction grew that it could not be pure coincidence that all these problems were happening to the same person. It was not.

I have a plan for these people. Once identified, they should be briefly immersed in a harmless but permanent green dye. For the rest of their lives, we shall be able to see them coming.

Then there are the delinquents. I consider it a criminal's moral duty to society to escape detection, because the police and legal costs of bringing him to trial are immense, and if he is, he is never persuaded not to offend again. Of the small minority who are caught, most are pathetically inadequate and a few actually want to be caught.

About 40 taxpayers are working full-time to meet the running costs of each. The cost of steering one persistent offender from cradle, through borstals, courts and jails to grave would run a small cruise-liner. The literature generated - crime reports, summonses, briefs, social reports, prison records - would rival *War and Peace*.

By shelving 1 per cent of the population, we could probably cut state spending by as much as three-quarters while maintaining services for the remaining 99 per cent. But how? There will be cases of mistaken identity and wrongful conviction, and there is always the chance that a character may be reformed. About one in a thousand is.

Perhaps they should be snap-frozen, and stored. Can medical science do this, yet? Future ages may see a breakthrough in techniques of rehabilitation. Future ages might be able to deal with them. Ours can't.

Richard Morrison asks if the Royal Opera House's ever-increasing deficit can be justified

# A malignant growth at the Garden

Two weeks ago, Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Royal Opera House, announced that he expected its deficit to rise from about £3 million now to more than £5 million next year. To some, this breathtaking acknowledgement of an ever-increasing debt seemed to have the tacit approval of the Arts Council, even of the Minister for the Arts, Richard Luce.

Only a month before, Mr Luce had proposed that the funding of nearly all performing companies should be devolved to regional arts boards, leaving a number of "flagship" national companies in the Arts Council's care. The Royal Opera House, which receives a £15 million annual public subsidy, will be one. So it was reasonable to believe that in budgeting for a £5 million deficit, it was confident that direct funding would bail it out. In short, Covent Garden expected special treatment.

Unless there is some sophisticated bluffing going on (which is not unknown in the British arts establishment), this interpretation

is confounded by a revelation made on Friday. Peter Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, has written to Lord Sainsbury, chairman of the Royal Opera House, expressing alarm at a deficit budget of this magnitude. Taxpayers, writes Mr Palumbo, will not invest in a company "determined... to spend its way into deficit". His line is consistent; already this season Kent Opera has folded because the Arts Council said its plans were unviable.

The Royal Opera House is in danger of pleasing no one. Next season its top ticket prices will exceed £100, and nowhere can a seat with a good view be described as cheap. Opera and ballet lovers without access to tickets bought by firms as excess ticket prices are being hit hard. Even these prices, however, represent a public subsidy of nearly £30 a seat. Now the taxpayers - 90 per cent of whom have no intention of going inside an opera house - are told that even this subsidy is not enough to avoid a walloping deficit.

Jeremy Isaacs' initial response

to Palumbo's letter was unwise: "The entire cost of the [Royal Opera] season probably amounts to less than the Metropolitan Opera House in New York will spend on a single production." It is an unfortunate comparison, since only 2 per cent of the Met's revenue comes from public subsidy, while the equivalent figure for Covent Garden is 44 per cent.

Many problems have clouded Isaacs' directorship at Covent Garden. The Royal Ballet pay dispute earlier this year uncovered considerable antagonism between the opera and dance companies which share the building. The Royal Opera House development project has become embroiled in a thicket of planning applications, and no alternative home has yet been found for the three years from 1992 when Covent Garden is closed for building work.

Most irksome to Isaacs, however, must be the artistic comparisons being made between the Royal Opera's erratic production standards and those of English National Opera. These compar-

isons undermine Covent Garden's status as a "centre of excellence", and so jeopardize its case for £15 million of subsidy. English National Opera also has a substantial deficit, but artistically it is riding high. It has staged a series of headline-grabbing "concept" productions; it has cultivated a real ensemble company, rather than a succession of casts from the circuit of high-priced international stars, and its marketing has been aimed at young theatre-goers rather than affluent opera devotees. Consequently, the London Coliseum is perceived as offering genuinely popular opera.

To his credit, Isaacs recognizes how crucial accessibility is to the survival of the Royal Opera House. He has attempted to reform the rigid union agreements which make every broadcast from Covent Garden the subject of wearisome negotiation. "Big screen" relays of operas to crowds in the Covent Garden piazza have won popular approval.

But these encouraging moves are not enough. The Royal Opera

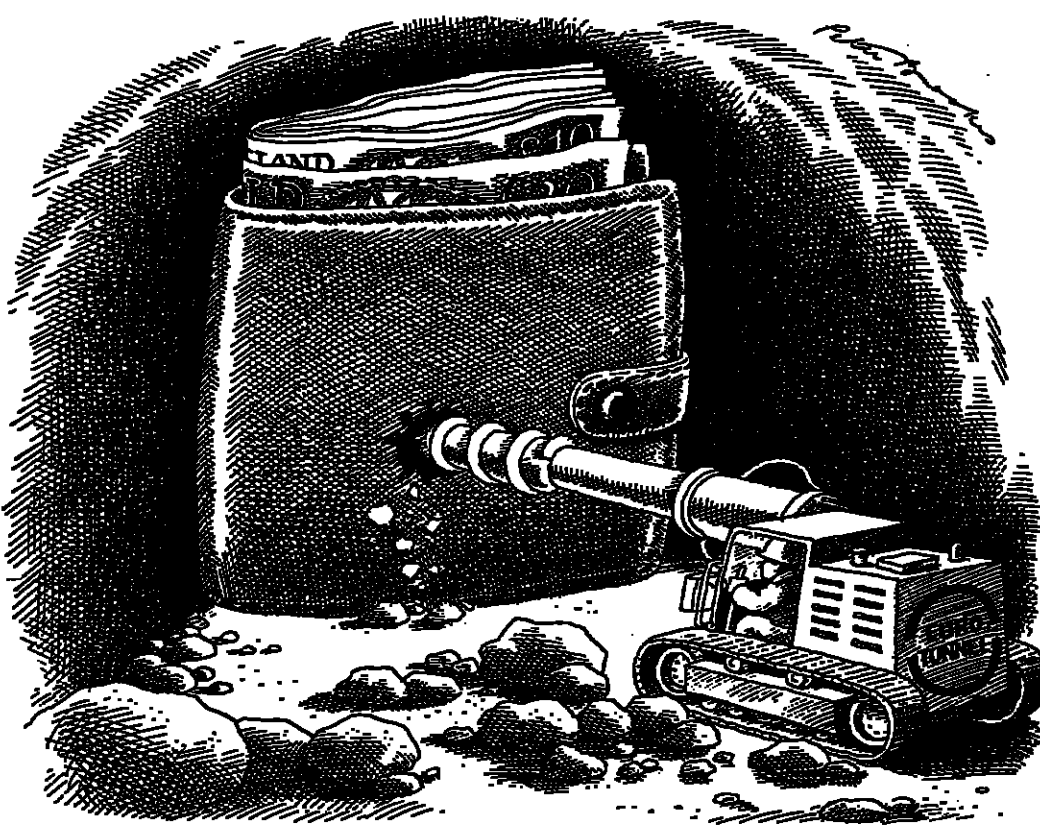
House is in such serious difficulties now that fundamental issues must be tackled urgently. Does Britain want a "superleague" opera house? If so, are we prepared to subsidize 70 per cent or more of the cost, as happens in Milan, Paris, Vienna and elsewhere? Or should Covent Garden follow Glyndebourne's policy, renounce subsidy, push seat prices higher still and hope that corporate patrons and Japanese tourists will pick up the bill?

And are the seasons too long? Covent Garden has around 450 performances each year, compared with 125 at La Scala. Yet Milan's opera-lovers probably outnumber London's by 10 to one.

The debate about these questions should not obscure one important principle. No company so reliant on public subsidy should be allowed to budget for a £5 million deficit. In effect, the Royal Opera House is allocating itself government funds that the government has not yet said it can have. That is not only high-handed, it is morally dubious.

# Splendid opening for the merchants of disaster

Bernard Levin finds a link between the Channel Tunnel and the City's latest financial fiasco



It is getting harder and harder to exaggerate, and considering that I have built my illustrious career almost entirely on a foundation of hyperbole, I am understandably becoming nervous. I would be obliged, therefore, if everybody would kindly calm down, to enable me to go on multiplying by the number I first thought of.

This plea is directed in particular to the hapless shovellers trying to build a Channel Tunnel. When I last wrote about this monstrous superfluousity, I did some ridiculous extrapolations concerning the cost; the makers were claiming that they would now need any more money, and I sprinkled thoughts about with a liberal hand, trying to demonstrate not the actual sums which would repeatedly falsify that absurd claim, but sums which, although obviously fantastic and impossible, would demonstrate that the claim would eventually be falsified.

I am more given than most to believing my own lunacy, but even I would have giggled if anyone had told me that my most extreme exaggerations would come literally true eight weeks after my joke. Yet so it has proved: Eurotunnel is at this moment asking for another two billion pounds to throw into their hole in the ground, and I would not be in the least surprised if the banks stamped up every penny of it ("...can't stop now...wasting our original investment...critics would laugh...Andre's a sound chap...having lunch with Parkinson next month...light at the end of the tunnel...he-he-he") and then forked out, around the end of July, another billion or two, or three, or possibly nineteen.

There is, however, a serious aspect to this pantomime. When the madness began, there was a government announcement - indeed, it was incorporated in the legislation - to the effect that there would be no public funds for the project; I gather that the Prime Minister himself insisted on that promise. After a time, however, when even the people in charge of the tunnel could hear the clock striking thirteen, a new note was sounded.

There was no way round the legislation, but there just might be a way round the legislation. The law forbids any public investment in the building of the tunnel; ah, but that does not preclude, or with enough impudence could be deemed not to preclude, the building of the new rail link, which

is absolutely essential if the plan to ruin the whole of Kent completely is to be finished on time.

When I heard of the plot, Tribulation Wholesome of Amsterdam sprang at once into my nasty mind. He is a character in Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist*, invited to take part in coining money. The upright cleric is scandalized beyond measure, until he is told that it is not *coining*, but *casting* that is under discussion, when he at once sees the distinction, and takes his whack with a clear conscience.

Not long after my philippic against the tunnel, I wrote about the extraordinary habit this country has of rewarding failure. There could be no better example than the use of taxpayers' money, in a deal designed to get round the law, to pay the bills of a company which proudly announces that its coffers are quite sufficiently full for the job in hand and a couple of months later is whining, in the traditional terms, "Mornin'.

Guv'nor, can you spare a few billion for a poor old bloke what's down on his luck?"

So far, the Government has not reached for our pockets; but it has not reached for a gun, either, and I regard as ominous the fact that although weeks have gone by since the rail-link option was floated, there has been no firm statement to the effect that the tunnelers will not get a penny from the state for any purpose whatever.

We shall see. But we shall also see what happens in the very jolly business of the firm of British and Commonwealth and the collapse of its subsidiary, Atlantic Computers, which collapse has in turn effectively ruined the parent company. In many ways, this fiasco is a re-run of the Ferranti merry-go-round, not least because of the astonishment engendered in both lots of bosses by the discovery that their enterprises were well and truly up the spout.

Listen to this: "Sir Peter Thompson, B&C's chairman,

said the company learnt of the size of Atlantic's problems only two weeks ago." Then listen to this:

Mr John Gunn, B&C's embattled chief executive, received the unequivocal support of his board, despite being the main architect of the strategy which cast down one of the market's highest flyers.

The details of Atlantic's very creative accounting are too complex to be rehearsed in detail here, though they can perhaps be summarized by saying that the dazzling wheeze they had hit upon consisted of buying items dear and, after a due interval, selling the same goods cheap. This dastardly unorthodox move attracted much censure, even suspicion, from the more staid members of the business community, but the figures speak for themselves; when the shares were suspended, B&C faced the prospect of having to write off at least £600 million.

The question that needs answering, of course (though certainly will not be answered), is the same

as the one that remained unanswered in the Ferranti catastrophe: in what hammock were the bosses slumbering, peaceful smiles on their faces, when their company was going down the drain to a deafening chorus of "Guv, guv, gub" from the shareholders?

Mr David McCormick, who had been chief executive of Atlantic, said, just as the roof was caving in, that "the full magnitude of Atlantic's problems was reported to certain board members of B&C more than a year ago, following a review of the potential liabilities which I instigated". That is almost exactly parallel to what happened at Ferranti; the elusive James Guein, head of its ICS subsidiary, had repeatedly been fingered as a crook, but nobody in charge took any notice. What has to happen in this country's business affairs for somebody to start taking notice before rather than after, the bailiffs are called in?

The answer to that one can be easily given, in very plain words. But I shall put it in more elaborately decorated ones. Listen to this:

Sir Peter Thompson told the Press that Mr Gunn had made his resignation available but B&C was "not in the sacrificial lamb game".

Savour the phrase, easily missed, in that statement: Mr Gunn had "made his resignation available". What an entrancing you see, but making his resignation available? Tribulation Wholesome himself could not have put it better. But there is still something missing; the news that both Gunn and Thompson, when they have finished with the Receiver and buried the company (to say nothing of the employees), are to go on to fresh fields of endeavour, with half a million quid each to keep them from starving to death for the first month or two.

Never mind: the announcement will come in time, and so will the half million. But what, it seems, will not come, is the surprise, let alone censure, that should attach to a failure to notice that your company is going bust until two weeks before it does so. I wonder whether Sir Peter Thompson and Mr Gunn could be persuaded to lend a hand with the Channel Tunnel, though I am not entirely sure in what capacity. In-filling, perhaps?

## The vilification of Vilnius

Russian propaganda appeared to have hijacked the airwaves on Saturday night when BBC 2 started flashing the words "Lithuanian scum! Beware the Lithuanians!" on our screens. Proving that racial tensions are nothing new in that part of the world, they were subtitles in the Covent Garden production of *Boris Godunov* at the Kirov Theatre, Leningrad. The poster parodies were inescapable but musical director Valery Gergiev, in an interview during the interval, got a little carried away. He insisted throughout on referring to Leningrad by its pre-revolutionary name of St Petersburg and to the Kirov company by its imperial name, the Mariinsky Opera. Surely a case of taking *glasnost* a little too far? Even with the pace of change in the Soviet Union, few Russians have been heard to call for the return of the Tsars - yet.

## Packing a punch

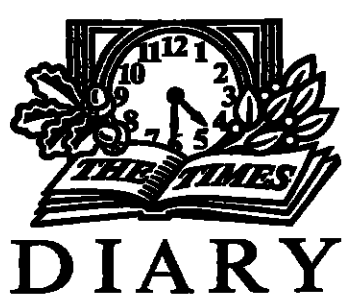
Pace-loving Quakers are annoyed to find that Popeye, that aggressive cartoon character, has changed his diet from spinach to Quaker Oats. The cloaked figure of Sir William Penn, founder of the Quaker movement in the United States, which has graced the cereal box with his presence for many years, has been removed, and Popeye has taken his place in a series of television commercials. But it is the revamped version of this theme song, in which the cartoon character now declares "I'm Popeye the

Quaker man", that has most upset American Quakers. A national flood of protest has ensued. Fortunately British Quakers take a more relaxed approach. David Firth, editor of their weekly newspaper, *The Friend*, restricts himself to observing mildly: "Popeye is always hitting people over the head, which is not really a Quakerly activity. He should give up porridge and stick to Olive Oyl."

A new novel by Joseph Wambaugh, *The Golden Orange*, offers some useful advice to Salman Rushdie. One of the inhabitants of Southern California's Orange County is quoted as saying: "That guy Rushdie oughta move to Orange County. Our Eyevians couldn't leave the discos long enough to kill anybody."

## Oliver's request

In the interest of fairness, Oliver Letwin, Tory rival to Glenda Jackson in marginal Hampstead at the next election, is demanding his own television series. Before being selected, Labour's glittering candidate was offered the presenter's role in the BBC's six-part Sunday night series *Women Mean Business*, and the BBC has urged Tories by continuing with it. The recall that when Rob Richards was chosen as Conservative candidate in the Vale of Glamorgan by-election last year, BBC Wales suspended him as presenter of a nightly news programme - and did not give him the job back when he lost. Far from calling for Jackson to be banned, Letwin says he will be satisfied with a series of his own and, without specifying the subject, is writing to the BBC to



demand it. Whether Tory MPs want Letwin on television six weeks running is an open question. His previous claim to fame was as a member of the Downing Street team which designed the poll tax.

## Cats and dogs

Rebellions come thick and fast in the Tory party these days. Having seen off Norman Tebbit over Hong Kong, the Government may have a tougher fight on its hands tonight over dog registration. Leading the rebels



this time is Dame Janet Fookes, MP for Plymouth Drake (two cats, no dogs). Animal welfare campaigners who have long pressed for proper registration of dogs received an unexpected boost when the Commons Information Office produced an imaginary Cats (Licensing) Bill to guide bemused visitors through the arcane legislative procedures of Westminster. The RSPCA seized upon the leaflet and has been sending copies to MPs urging them to enact it as it stands, with "cats" deleted and the word "dogs" inserted in its place.

Where did Norman Tebbit get his cricket-test idea? According to actor Warren Mitchell it was lifted straight from a Johnny Speight script for *In Sickness and in Health*, featuring television's racist caricature, Alf Garnett.

## Gruff realities

The item in this column last week about Clive Ponting's book *1940: Myth and Reality* has clearly touched a raw nerve. However, most of the flurry of letters on the subject object not to Ponting's attempt to debunk Churchill but to his error over the casting of Toytown, a mainstay of the BBC's *Children's Hour*. Ponting claims that Churchill's greatest radio broadcasts featured not his own voice, but that of the actor who played Toytown's Larry the Lamb. Scores of readers point out that the late Norman Shelley, the actor who claimed to have been the surrogate Churchill, played the Magician, Captain Higgins and Peter Brass. The voice of Larry the Lamb was that of Derek McCulloch, the pro-

gramme's Uncle Mac - something Ponting now accepts.

C.H. Rolph, the writer and broadcaster, says that Shelley, who was best man at his wedding, recorded "we shall fight on the beaches" for a propaganda film, and that it was repeated on the radio so many times that no one was aware of the deception. Another correspondent insists that it was Churchill who made the broadcast, and that when the microphone was switched off he added "And we shall hit him on the head with beer-bottles, which is all we've really got."

## Labour markets

Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former chairman of ICI and presenter of the BBC 2 *Troubleshooter* series, is putting his formidable entrepreneurial skills to work for the increasingly market-conscious Labour Party. Sir John, on behalf of Kramer Associates, the management consultancy, has invited businessmen to pay £1,610 per ticket for a "Meet the Shadow Cabinet" session at a Park Lane hotel next month. The venture has upset Tory MPs, who have tabled a Commons motion predicting that the "Meet the Shadow Cabinet" offer is overpriced and will be undersubscribed. They suggest that Sir John should devote one *Troubleshooter* programme to investigating Labour's "inexperienced management, union-dominated workforce and outdated product lines". They do not request that he apply his skills to their own troubled outfit, no doubt apprehensive that he might begin by suggesting they sack the managing director.





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## MAKING SENSE OF UNION

The Dublin summit has brought some long overdue realism to the debate about "political union" between the 12 member states of the European Community. The credit for this realism must go to Mrs Thatcher. Given the barrage of abuse to which she was subjected before the summit, she can be seen to have played a most difficult hand with skill. Gone, thank goodness, are the histrionics of 10 years ago; gone too the display of petulant hostility to any idea of change in the Community's constitutional structure.

On her insistence, foreign ministers are to produce before the next summit in June a detailed analysis of the possible meanings of political union. They must set out its institutional and legal implications, and provide, route-maps with the destinations clearly marked. The importance of this preparation is that the next summit will almost certainly agree to an inter-governmental conference on the subject. It will not now proceed in a vacuum. Five other heads of government supported Mrs Thatcher.

In addition, Mrs Thatcher achieved a preliminary definition of political union which emphasized the need to establish the Community's "democratic legitimacy", improve the effectiveness of its institutions, and provide for united and coherent external policies. That is a good starting point for negotiations, because it could apply equally to the "deepening" of the Community sought (for different reasons) by Germany and France, and to Mrs Thatcher's preferred vision of a looser federation of states.

If an obsession with the meaning of diplomatic terms is considered an irritating British habit, so be it. After last week's advocacy of political union by its chief proponents, France and the Federal Republic, neither could come up with a definition that even remotely made sense. This in itself might do for an occasional after-dinner speech, were it not for the casual lack of sensitivity for political union shown by those two leaders last week. As Mrs Thatcher pointed out, what credence should attach to Franco-German rhetoric about pooled sovereignty when they rush off a bilateral foreign policy initiative on Lithuania? And who are the French and Germans to expect established European democracies to relinquish national rights which the countries of Eastern Europe are exuberantly regaining?

If France and Germany will not say what

they mean, Britain is right to help them out. Mrs Thatcher at least attempted to describe what political union was *not*, to ring-fence the areas of sovereignty she judges indispensable if the distinctive identities of the Community's member nations are to be preserved. Her list of things better left alone included each country's head of state and national legislature, and its electoral and legal systems. There must, she insisted, be no weakening, in favour of "government by a technocratic elite", of the powers of the Council of Ministers, and no dilution of the West's Nato-based defence arrangements.

This may amount to a restatement, in silkier tones, of much of Mrs Thatcher's famous Bruges speech of September 1988. What was refreshingly novel was that, for once, Mrs Thatcher stated her reservations without attracting overt disavowals from her peers. The assent she garnered has much to do with her more subdued tone of voice. It also reflects the fact that her list of exclusions was an astute political summary of ordinary people's scepticism — not just in Britain — towards the accumulation of power in Brussels and (if Germany has its way) in the European Parliament.

Mrs Thatcher's approach would allow for little more than closer policy coordination between governments and more efficient administration. This would require, as she hopes, minimal revision to the Treaty of Rome. It is incompatible with full-scale political integration but can, and this is important, be reconciled with "strengthening the political dimension of the Community". This is one way of describing a route which M Delors himself last week preferred to the "unfortunate" resonances of "political union". The British approach opposes the French fixation with "locking Germany into the Community". It offers a more open debate about the kind of room in which Germany would feel so comfortable that a lock would be superfluous. It also reflects Mrs Thatcher's wider concern with a Europe predating the Treaty of Rome, a cultural space whose boundaries embrace not only Budapest and Moscow, but stretch out as far as the United States.

The harmony of the Dublin summit may not hold as more detailed negotiations proceed towards June. But the Prime Minister has castled adroitly to avoid check.

## SILENCE IN COURT

In October 1988 Lord Denning and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Tom King, made some comments on an accused person's right to silence, while a jury in Winchester happened to be trying three Irish persons on terrorist charges. All three had exercised their right to remain silent in court. By an odd coincidence, with no relevance except to the amount of publicity his words received, Mr King was himself the target of the conspiracy to murder with which the three were charged.

The gist of Mr King's and Lord Denning's remarks was that the guilty had more reason to remain silent than the innocent, and that a prosecuting counsel ought to be entitled, contrary to practice hitherto, to draw this suggestion to the attention of the court. They made no reference to the Winchester case. Mr King was engaged in explaining an Order he had tabled in the House of Commons relating to a restriction on the right of silence in Northern Ireland (which has since come into force). Lord Denning, commenting on this on television, repeated his long-held view that something similar should be done in England. The Court of Appeal last week concluded that the Winchester jury, once its members had been made aware of these opinions, might have been unfairly influenced. A new trial should therefore have been ordered. The defendants have been released.

Lord Denning accepted in *The Times* today that it is *prima facie* a contempt of court to say anything which might prejudice a jury in the course of a trial. But in this case, he indignantly denies the charge and protests at being found guilty in his absence and without right of defence. For a former judge to be complaining of his vulnerability to contempt of court will be

ironic to many in the press. But he is correct. He and Mr King had a right to say what they said when they said it; newspapers and television had a right to report them saying it; and the jury was capable of disregarding such comments, particularly when warned to do so by the trial judge.

The issue of the right to silence has been publicly discussed at length at least since 1972. Nobody could suppose that the idea that silence may suggest guilt was so novel that no member of the jury would ever have thought of it, had he not heard of the comments of Lord Denning and Mr King. The Court of Appeal has shown, once again, how ridiculous is the mythology which surrounds contempt of court.

That said, the Court of Appeal might have had better reasons to be worried about the safety of these convictions. The jury at Winchester was out for 15 hours, and at one point reported to the judge it was virtually hung. The eventual verdict was reached by a vote of 10 to two.

The jury's agonized decision to convict appeared to depend upon an even more questionable theory than an inference of guilt drawn from their silence, namely that they were part of an IRA intelligence gathering operation. The police admitted in court there was no evidence for this. It was an inference based largely on the fact that they were from Ireland, and that they had collected what could have been a terrorist hit-list.

These doubts must surely have passed through the original jury's mind. To be acting suspiciously and to be Irish is not sufficient proof of involvement in an IRA conspiracy. The Court of Appeal should have questioned that instead.

## SAVE SPITALFIELDS

A decision last week by a neighbourhood committee in Bethnal Green in East London has thrown £500m of property up in the air, to land only after Thursday's local elections. The move of the old Spitalfields market this year to Stratford East vacates 12 acres of probably the most enticing land in Western Europe.

A network of streets, with many buildings dating from the early 18th-century, spreads east from the City of London boundary at Bishopsgate. North and east of it lies residential London; huge office blocks are rising to the west in Broadgate and south in Wapping. Spitalfields is in their shadow, as vulnerable as was Covent Garden in West London in the 1970s. Covent Garden was saved from overdevelopment only after mass public protest forced the 1970 Conservative Government to intervene. The result is today one of the most attractive and profitable conservation areas in any capital city. Can Spitalfields be saved in the same way?

The proposal which went forward for local planning approval last week offers no scope for optimism. It involves the construction of 1m square feet of commercial space in a massive linked gallery. To ease this monster down the throats of the Tower Hamlets council, a consortium of property and construction interests have resorted to the gambit of offering what amounts to a political bribe, 118 low-cost homes elsewhere on the site, the sort of planning gain notorious in the 1960s, enabling developers to disregard zoning restrictions with developments such as Centre Point and Stag Place, Victoria.

The City Corporation wants to make as much as possible out of the old market site: roughly £120m, of which half will go on paying

for the market's relocation. The rest is public-sector profit. Earlier, more conservationist, schemes for Spitalfields have all foundered on this profit figure. One envisaged the neighbourhood restored as a classical townscape, a refreshing retreat from the overpowering City on its borders. Another retained much of this low-rise atmosphere and was widely acclaimed, but was considered insufficiently profitable.

The present architects are the Americans, Swanke, Hayden, Connell, creators of New York's Trump Tower. They responded to a more ruthless brief with a great brick block on the market site, effectively pushing the City boundary 100 yards to the east.

This is the last corner of central London to face renewal. Given the exciting recent advances in planning and architecture in British cities, it would be a tragedy if the old ways were to triumph here. The case for retaining low-rise shops, offices and private houses in this area is clear. There is no private landowner to complain of lost revenue. There are two public authorities, the City Corporation and Tower Hamlets council, in a position to ordain what should occur. Both should be prized off their obsession with maximum public housing or maximum rental profit.

The likelihood is that the local council will go Labour this week. The present scheme may be rejected, and thankfully go to public inquiry. If so, the decision will rest with the Environment Secretary, Mr Chris Patten. He knows what he should do with such destructive plans. London can renew itself and prosper without losing its character. If Covent Garden could be saved, so can Spitalfields.

## In defence of freedom of speech

From Lord Denning  
Sir, In your issue of Saturday, April 28, you headlined one of your reports "Three convictions quashed on 'right to silence'". You set out the reasons given by the judges of the Court of Appeal. These were that Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, and I had made statements on television which were so prejudicial to the three accused that a fair trial was impossible before the jury that was trying them. That unfairness "could not be overcome by any direction to the jury and that the only way in which justice could be done and be obviously seen to be done was by discharging the jury and ordering a retrial".

That pronouncement charges Mr King and me — and the television people — with a serious contempt of court. We had offended against sections 1 and 2 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981. We had been guilty of conduct which interfered with the course of justice regardless of intent to do so.

The judges of the Court of Appeal did not communicate with me before making this serious charge against me. They condemned me unheard. I had been given an opportunity, I would have had a good defence to the charge.

"The right to silence" had been brought under public scrutiny on October 20, 1988, by a written answer by the Home Secretary to Parliament. It was a matter of general public interest on which all of us were entitled to comment. My comment on television was the same as those which I had made publicly many times before and were based on the report of

the Criminal Law Revision Committee in 1972, who proposed that the so-called "right to silence" enjoyed by suspects should be greatly restricted.

I knew as most people knew that three people were being tried at Winchester for conspiring to murder Mr King but I knew nothing of the course of the trial. I had read nothing of it and had no idea that it involved the right to silence. If I had been charged I should have pleaded the defence of freedom of speech given by Section 5 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981: A publication made as or as part of a discussion in good faith of public affairs or other matters of general public interest is not to be treated as a contempt of court under this strict liability rule if the risk of impediment or prejudice to particular legal proceedings is merely incidental to the discussion.

That section was inserted into the statute on the recommendation of the Contempt of Court Committee supported by speeches of distinguished law lords.

Yet the judges of the Court of Appeal have condemned me without hearing my defence. They did it under the cloak of an absolute privilege. In the face of it, all I can do is to write to you. My view is that justice was done in the Crown Court at Winchester by Mr Justice Swinton Thomas (the presiding judge of the Western Circuit) and a Hampshire jury. It was not done at the Old Bailey in London by three judges of the Court of Appeal.

Yours etc,  
DENNING,  
The Lawn,  
Whitechurch,  
Hampshire,  
April 29.

## EC borders and 1992

From Mr Alan Butt Philip  
Sir, The lack of interest in helping Britain avert a mass exodus from Hong Kong on the part of other EC governments should not cause you any surprise (leading article, April 19). Such an attitude follows exactly the same logic as the British Government's own insistence that immigration policy is a national government prerogative and outside the European Community's competence.

Why then should other EC governments help Britain out over Hong Kong, any more than Britain should help Portugal out over the situation in neighbouring Macau?

Nor are you correct in stating that after 1992 any migrant into an EC member State is by definition a migrant into the community as a whole. The UK Government has never claimed that free movement of persons within the EC should apply to non-EC nationals, however legitimately resident in another EC member State. That is one reason why the British Gov-

ernment is so reluctant to see an end to border controls within the Community.

Yet it is extremely difficult to see how a frontier free Europe can be delivered after 1992 unless freedom of movement within the EC is offered to EC and non-EC nationals alike. It is also abundantly clear that EC states will have to co-ordinate their immigration policies as the barriers in Europe come down, since the decisions of any one government in this policy area will increasingly impact upon many others.

Such a sensible outcome is only likely to be achieved when national governments have learned the hard way just how limited is their own capacity to take effective action on immigration matters without sharing their supposed sovereignty with their neighbours.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN BUTT PHILIP,  
University Bath,  
Centre for European Industrial Studies,  
Claverton Down,  
Bath, Avon,  
April 19.

## Business rate

From Dr Gerard Bulger  
Sir, In your issue of April 25 you state that the uniform business rate has resulted in billions of pounds being transferred from southern to northern businesses. It would have been more correct to state that this transfer was from southern to northern landlords.

A business, in determining where to place itself, will take into account the sum of rent (or mortgage interest) and rates in a given area. The sum that the business will bear will be determined by market forces. If a council lowered its rates, the effect was to allow landlords to raise rents to match that sum, as far as the market would bear. Similarly raising rates suppresses local rents.

Businesses are driven out of inner cities by factors other than the rates. These include poor educational facilities for its employees' children, poor transport, and planning restrictions.

You suggest that local business should have its rates set again locally. In that case business should have local representation to go with their taxation.

Yours sincerely,  
GERARD BULGER,  
58 Newville Road,  
Hackney, E5,  
April 26.

## Ecologically minded

From Mr J. T. Chambers  
Sir, The answer to Dr Flood's problem (April 25) is simple. If he were to stop worrying about other people's destruction of the rain forests and concentrate instead on avoiding the destruction of his own lungs and the pollution of our atmosphere, he could be relieved of his dilemma of whether to choose cigars in packets or cigars in tins.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN CHAMBERS,  
36 Montfort College,  
Bosley Road,  
Romsey,  
Hampshire,  
April 25.

From Mr P. G. R. Wills  
Sir, Dr Flood need not regard his small cigar tins as expendable. I find them invaluable for storing nails, screws, and similar small items.

They then store neatly in a biscuit tin, and perhaps Dr Flood could find some other things to store in this stored in tins.

Yours faithfully,  
P. G. R. WILLS,  
54 Frant Road,  
Tunbridge Wells,  
Kent,  
April 25.

## Buildings at risk

From Mr Andrew Anderson  
Sir, While cathedrals were the first to suffer from the kindness that kills (article, April 18) in the 1960s and 1970s, resulting in more than one case in the irrevocable loss of historic fabric, they were also among the first to realise the dangers of too much money.

The buildings at risk today are not the stars in England's architectural firmament but the humbler satellites, the less visible (and often still unexplored) barns, mills, terrace houses and pubs which together make up the major part of the historic fabric of our towns and countryside.

Why are these gems being ruined? The answer is simple: there are, unlike in cathedrals, rarely powerful personalities at the doors.

Conservation in England in the 1990s must be indivisible and include all buildings, great and small.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW ANDERSON  
(Surveyor to the fabric,  
St Albans Cathedral),  
1 The Close,  
Northwich, Norfolk,  
April 20.

## Obstructive pupils

From Mr Aidan White  
Sir, Mr Chapman (April 21) has put his finger on what is the major impediment to job satisfaction in State schools — the obstructive pupil. It is one which the educational establishment shows a strange reluctance to acknowledge, either through lack of personal experience or an extravagantly idealised view of juvenile character.

It is a strange situation in which the teacher has a legal obligation to bestow his services on a minority resolutely determined to reject them, meanwhile neglecting the willing majority. Any sanctions he may have had in the past have been whittled away. He is dependent on personality and bluff.

A solution adopted by some is the role of policeman, which may contain the nuisances but intimidates the sensitive. Others, determined to take a more humane approach, suffer the inevitable stress.

One such colleague (an excellent teacher on the testimony of former pupils) once said to me: "You are in a situation which you cannot dominate and you cannot change". Before he could retire he had died of a stroke.

Yours faithfully,  
AIDAN WHITE,  
17 Braunstone Avenue,  
Leicester,  
April 23.

## Balancing Opera House books

From the Chairman of the Royal Opera House  
Sir, Last week, when the Royal Opera House announced the programme for opera next season (report, April 19), we reported that, following a deficit in the last financial year of over £3 million, the current year was likely to produce a further shortfall of £2 million.

In view of the publicity given to this, I would like to emphasise that the current year's budget was only arrived at after substantial economies had been found, and was only authorised by the board because we believed that any further economies would result in either compromising the artistic standards to which we aspire, or greater losses if fewer performances were to be given.

Our objective is to get as near as possible to balancing our books, though maintaining our artistic standards and ensuring an exciting repertoire, which will fill the house (as it has in the past year), despite the very high prices we must charge for the best seats in the house.

The consequences of the financial squeeze we have experienced, as Arts Council funding has been reduced by 15 per cent in real terms between 1984 and 1989, have been well known to Govern-

ment and to the Arts Council for over a year. We appreciate the increase in grant for the current year; nevertheless, if taken with the very small grant given last year, we have over last year and this suffered around a 3 per cent reduction in subsidy, allowing for inflation.

We fully recognise our responsibility to help ourselves as much as we can, and to work to reduce this deficit. We will continue to look for more income from the box office and from private sponsorship, both of which have risen considerably, though, the latter, in a changed economic climate, less rapidly than we had hoped.

However, it should be said that on a performance basis our subsidy is very much lower than any other major European opera house, and that if successive Arts Council grants had followed the recommendation made in the Priestley report (a Cabinet office efficiency review in 1983) this year's budget would not show a deficit.

Yours faithfully,  
SAINSBURY, Chairman,  
Royal Opera House,  
As from: Stamford House,  
Stamford Street, SE1,  
April 27.

## NHS reforms

From Mr Nigel H. Harris  
Sir, Your report (April 19) that the Royal Opera House is budgeting for a £2 million deficit in the current year is carrying over a deficit of £3.3 million from the last financial year and will let it grow to nearly £5.5 million.

These arrangements present a stark contrast with the NHS. Regular reports have indicated the widespread, significant underfunding of our hospitals, amounting to many millions of pounds. Unlike the Royal Opera House, health authorities have no choice but to drastically reduce services to patients to stay within their budget. Mr Clarke undoubtedly would say that Jeremy Isaacs and his colleagues have mismanaged the affairs of the Opera House.

There is something seriously wrong with our priorities that allows continual deterioration in the service to patients but allows them — health permitting — to visit the opera.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL H. HARRIS  
(Consultant orthopaedic surgeon),  
72 Harley Street, W1,  
April 20.

## Hardback novels

From Dr Crawford Knox  
Sir, David Holbrook has expressed concern (April 18) about the failure of libraries to buy hardback fiction and notes the deleterious effect on reading of television.

In a recent review in *The Times Literary Supplement* (March 16-22) of David Vincent's new book, *Literary and Popular Culture: England 1750-1914*, Paul Thompson noted that by the 1840s there were at least some books in three-quarters of labourers' homes; and that in the late 19th century the British working class read more newspapers and books and sent more postcards than any in the world.

It is now 120 years since the Education Act of 1870 provided for compulsory education in this country. Are there any modern figures which might enable us to judge the growth of literacy in England since before and after the introduction of compulsory education?

Yours faithfully,  
CRAWFORD KNOX,  
Burrow Wood, East Hill,  
Ottery St Mary, Devon.

## PR in Ireland

From Mr Eric Syddique  
Sir, It is not Mr Thorpe (April 17) who is being naive. Des Keenan (April 23) seems to be making the assumption that the absence of any Protestant party in the Irish Republic means that its Protestant minority is not represented. But the beauty of PR/STV (proportional representation/single transferable vote) is that no such party is needed. The minority has always got fair representation, simply by giving its preference to Protestant or Catholic candidates within any party.

It was a leading Protestant, Canon Luce, who wrote in praise of PR as "a healing and unifying force".

Yours faithfully,  
ERIC SYDDIQUE (Research and Information Officer),  
Electoral Reform Society,  
6 Chancel Street,  
Blackfriars, SE1.

## War horses

From Mr P. F. R. Corson  
Sir, "The Earl" lies buried in the field outside our gate. The stone over his grave records:

Here lies "The Earl". He was charged to R. T. Godman in the 5th Dragoon Guards for 19 years. Served through the Russian War in Turkey and the Crimea 1854-6. Was engaged in battles of Balaklava, Inkerman, Tchernaya & siege of Sebastopol. Was shot in consequence of an accident on 26th December 1868 when still in full vigour.

What a partnership that must have been, and what a sad parting. Yours etc.,  
P. F. R. CORSON,  
Park Hatch,  
Loxhill,  
Godalming, Surrey,  
April 21.

## Change in S Africa

From Mr W. J. Tomlinson  
Sir, There is a fundamental flaw in Conor Cruise O'Brien's suggestion (article, April 22) that South Africa's President de Klerk might "go for broke, and accept non-racial elections on a common roll".

That would be unconstitutional, and Dr Treurnicht would certainly challenge it in the Supreme Court. The court would equally certainly uphold the challenge.

The only legal way Mr de Klerk could follow Dr O'Brien's suggestion would be to amend the Constitution, and this in turn would require a referendum of the white electorate — which would bring him back to square one.

Yours faithfully,  
BILL TOMLINSON,  
13 Hawthorne Close,  
Woking, Surrey.

## Fragrant journey

From Mrs H. Crowe  
Sir, Your report (April 20, later editions) on the use of artificial fragrances to "sweeten" the carriage atmosphere "on an east London Underground line" perturbs me. Sensitized once and for all to many perfumes, a few years ago, when my house was sprayed with a particular perfumed aerosol, I have swiftly to vacate any taxi cab carrying one of those perfumed odour-eaters or leave the room if I find myself sharing it with one or other perfume or aftershave, to avoid a severe attack of vomiting.

Shall I soon have to risk leaping from a train between Shoreditch and New Cross, or other route made fragrant to some, but poisonous to me? If the carriages smell, there is a reason and the reason should be cleaned up, not covered up.

Yours faithfully,  
EVA CROWE,  
1 Lodge Cottages, Axford,  
Basingstoke, Hampshire.

## Trade figures

From Mr Tim Wright  
Sir, I have just been analysing my monthly shopping statistics and have found that I have again spent considerably more than I had previously forecast. Fortunately this can be explained by erratic items, such as restocking the drinks cabinet and spring-cleaning materials.

I am confident that next month there will be no more erratic items. Instead I shall call next month's blip a one-off due to the unusually good weather. What excuse shall I use for June?

Yours faithfully,  
TIM WRIGHT,  
3 Idsworth House,  
Hordean, Hampshire,  
April 23.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number (01)782 5046.





## COURT CIRCULAR

## BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 28: The Queen accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, this morning unveiled a statue of Field Marshal the Viscount Slim at Raleigh Green, Whitehall.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Field Marshal the Lord Bramall) and Air Vice-Marshal Sir Bernard Chacksfield (Chairman, Burma Star Association).

The Lady Farham, Sir Kenneth Scott and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Burma Star Association, this evening attended a Remembrance of the Association at the Royal Albert Hall.

His Royal Highness was received by Colonel the Viscount Slim (President) and Air Vice-Marshal Sir Bernard Chacksfield (Chairman). Captain Michael Hutchings was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE  
April 29: The Princess of Wales,

Patron, Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, attended the charity Malcolm Sargent Birthday Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, SW7.

## KENSINGTON PALACE

April 29: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon received the Freedom of the City of Peterborough at a ceremony held in the Town Hall, Peterborough.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire (Mr Michael Bevan).

## YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE  
April 28: The Duchess of Kent, President of the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester this evening attended a Concert at the College in support of the Jacqueline du Pré Memorial Fund Appeal.

April 29: The Duchess of Kent, as Guest of Honour, this afternoon attended the Littlewoods Challenge Cup Football Final at Wembley Stadium.

## Marriages

Mr R.L. Bourlet and Miss F.J. Elliott  
A Service of Blessing took place on Saturday, April 28, at Chelsea Old Church, following the marriage of Mr Ronald Bourlet and Miss Felicity Elliott, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Elliott. The Prebendary C.E. Leighton Thompson officiated.

The bride, escorted by her father, was attended by Miss Davina Elliott, Mrs Bridget Benthall, and Loreana Gomm. Mr David Graham Young was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr M.F.P. Cripps and Miss C.W. Roman  
The marriage took place on Saturday, at Ballymore Church, Cobh, Co Cork, of Mr Matthew Cripps, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Cripps, of St Pierre Du Bois, Guernsey, and Miss Claire Roman, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Roman, of Cusker, Cobh, Co Cork. Father, Rev. Canon John Roman, officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Miss Davina Elliott, Mrs Bridget Benthall, and Loreana Gomm. Mr David Graham Young was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr J.A. Fellows and Miss E.J. Kitchener  
The marriage took place on Saturday, at St Margaret's, Westminster Abbey, of Mr Julian Alexander Fellows, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Fellows, and the late Mrs J.A. Fellows, and stepson of Lady Maureen Fellows, of the Court, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, to Miss Emma Kitchener, only child of the late Hon Charles Kitchener, of Croylands, Romsey, Hampshire. Canon Donald Gray officiated, assisted by Father John Arnold.

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Mr D.G. Garraway and Miss R.R. Atkins  
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## OBITUARIES

## AUBREY WILLIAMS

Aubrey Williams, abstract painter, died aged 63 on April 27. He was born on May 8, 1926.

A PAINTER of outstanding talent and achievement Aubrey Williams was an artist whose work was better known internationally than in London where he made his home.

Aubrey Sordall Williams was born at Georgetown, British Guiana (now Guyana), the son of Walter Williams.

He was educated in Georgetown, and worked in the civil service; during his period of service he spent two years with one of Guyana's primitive Indian tribes, the Warrau, who made him a blood brother.

In 1952 Williams came to London to study for a year at St Martin's School of Art. He quickly found, in the language of expressive abstraction which was then as much European as American, a vehicle of expression for his own nature: sharp visual memories of forms float, associate, are transmuted and coalesce into something more, against a less sharply defined background of emotions, moods, colours, and lights.

Serious and splendid, full of energy, radiance, and confidence, Williams's paintings use all the richness of the art to communicate from many levels of mind and heart.

This art of international appeal gained an international response: from London, which Williams made his base, he travelled the world, fulfilling commissions to paint, lecture, and make murals as widely situated as San Francisco, Wilshire, Chicago, Guyana, Nova Scotia and Jamaica; while his portraits included Fidel Castro, Dimitri Shostakovich and Duke Ellington.

He exhibited in 1967 at the São Paulo Biennale in Brazil. His work was included in travelling exhibitions in the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy.

However, back in London it was a different story: Williams was, culturally, a victim of history.

London was ostensibly the cultural capital of the Empire, and, subsequently, of the Commonwealth, with a fine art gallery for temporary exhibitions built into the Commonwealth Institute.

It was there that Williams showed in 1962-3 in the exhibition *Commonwealth Art Today*.



Williams with one of his Shostakovich paintings

He was featured on US television in 1972-3 and in 1975 he had a ten-year retrospective at the Olympia Art Centre at Kingston, Jamaica.

Nor has the Tate Gallery felt itself equal to taking on this task.

Williams's art was thus inevitably marginalized. Indeed, the only place in London where his work is permanently viewable is in the upper foyer of the Festival Hall.

There, two of the works from his series *On the Music of Dimitri Shostakovich* are on display.

This series - which was

shown at the Commonwealth Institute in 1981, with the exhibition opened by Maxine Shostakovich's son, and subsequently shown at the Festival Hall - suggested an artistic affinity between the two artists, as "muralists", ready to work on a broad, direct, public scale, readily understood on the surface, but with a passionate depth of content behind that.

Williams followed this at the Institute in 1985 (the exhibition opened by Terry Waite) with another series, *Olmes-Maya and Now*.

Part of the content of these paintings is the unique cultural relationship in that Guyana, lying between the Orinoco and Amazon rivers, has the sole British cultural association within the sub-continent of South America with the ancient land of the Mayas, Incas, Aztecs and Olmes.

Something of the mysterious light of the jungle and the mystical light of the sun inhabits these paintings along with reminiscences of historical form; Williams was also concerned with the contemporary relevance of the historical warning of the Maya culture - which developed, lived out and lost one of the world's greatest civilizations in the space of 30 to 50 years, if research is to be believed; unable to deal socially with its own rate of development.

Williams's work from 1962 to 1985 was recently featured in the exhibition *The Other Story - Afro-Asian Art in Post-War Britain* at the Hayward Gallery; the exhibition's plea for understanding of the multi-racial aspects of contemporary art in Britain somewhat obscured the international nature of his art.

His distinguished contribution to contemporary art lies in his taking a theme and then painting, exuberantly, as the mind works, to make a work of visual communication.

Aubrey Williams is survived by his wife Eve and his daughter Mariadwa.

## PETER FULLER

Peter Fuller, art critic of the Sunday Telegraph and founder and editor of the critical quarterly magazine *Modern Painters*, died aged 42, on April 28. A car in which he was travelling careered off the M4 motorway and plunged down an embankment.

IN A comparatively brief career, tragically cut short by his death in road accident, Peter Fuller made an impact on the world of art criticism which was acknowledged even by those who did not necessarily share his views.

These had certainly changed direction over the years. Nevertheless the energy with which he expressed them made the subject of art criticism interesting to people who do not immediately respond when looking at pictures and sculpture.

Fuller had himself painted, but his main impact was in his ability to use art as a springboard for the dissemination of more general opinions on culture and the state of contemporary society. As a literary intellectual he often expressed a strong suspicion of what he and the general exhibition-goer were asked to recognize as being valid or important in art.

From his early days at Peterhouse, Cambridge, Fuller was a staunch supporter of full-blown revolutionary Marxism. He was also a friend and admirer of the critic John Berger, and aspired to a position of similar influence for the propagation of his own ideas when the time came.

As time went by Fuller's Marxism became increasingly

difficult for him to live with, intellectually speaking. He became interested in the ideas of Ruskin, and when circumstances enabled him to found his own quarterly magazine its title, *Modern Painters*, paid homage to the Victorian arbiter of artistic taste.

*Modern Painters*, which was admired for its readability and its attractive presentation, continued the crusade which Fuller had been waging since the 1970s, against what he saw as the subversion of self-confidence in the British art scene by pop art, minimalism, conceptualism and other growths from across the Atlantic or from the continent of Europe, which had become so dominant in Britain.

His writings increasingly looked for, and sought to nurture, a health in affirmative tradition which he liked to think was not by any means extinct in this country. He wrote about the figurative art of other countries, notably of Australia, in the post-war period.

He could be aggressive in the propagation of his views, but his aggression stemmed from a deep feeling that art criticism had become too much the property of a clique; that its language had become a private code understood only by its practitioners; and that writing about art ought to be restored to the centre of the English literary tradition, where it had been in the time of Ruskin.

His wife, Stephanie, who was pregnant, survived the accident (but lost her baby), as did their three-year-old son, Laurence.

## ERTÉ

Alfred Black writes:

MAY I add a footnote to the obituary (April 23) on Erté? He designed costumes and scenery for my father, George Black, at the Palladium for the Crazy Gang before the Second World War.

After the war he designed scenery and costumes for my brother George and myself for our revues at the Opera House, Blackpool for 20 years.

His designs and costumes were made under the supervision of Alec Shanks, who had worked with Erté at the Folies Bergère in Paris. Shanks also made the costumes himself in his workshops.

When Erté, who always came over for the opening of the shows in Blackpool, was due to arrive we asked Alec Shanks what would be the fee. The answer over the years was always the same: "Oh buy him something in gold... he prefers that to money".

When Erté did come he brought with him a bag full of his payments in gold from other sources - it literally weighed a ton. We gave him our offering for his work which went into the bag and back to Paris.

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## Valuing truth above Christian tradition

There is increasing clamour from a section of the Church today for a return to traditional values. Thus homosexual behaviour is forthrightly condemned and belief in the virgin conception is to be obligatory for all professing Christians. The underlying assumption is that obedience to God involves obedience to the tradition.

The assumption behind this stance is that the truths of religion (ie Christian religion) and the morality that goes with it, have been once and for all laid down and enshrined in the foundation documents of the Church, particularly the Bible and the Creeds.

The fact that the scriptures are themselves an expression of an evolving idea of the nature of God belies the claim that the tradition is beyond criticism. The idea of God in the Old Testament, for example, develops as a result of the pressure of ongoing criticism of received views.

The tribal and somewhat capricious God of Genesis ultimately becomes the universal God of mercy. Likewise the revelation of God in Christ in the New Testament not only comes as something of a contradiction to earlier convictions, but itself undergoes a somewhat incomplete process of sifting and interpretation in the Gospels and Epistles.

That this process of ongoing criticism of a tradition continues after the formulation of the New Testament documents, is witnessed to by the strenuous debates of the early Church Fathers, and indeed by their successors in contemporary theological exploration.

What the Bible does set up as a worthy and essential aim is not the uncritical acceptance of a tradition but rather the pursuit of truth. Our God is a God of truth and the Holy Spirit, we are informed, will

lead us into all truth. So the Bible is telling us that we should embrace once-for-all eternally revealed verities, but that we should seek the truth.

The only way to go about this pilgrimage of exploration for the truth is by subjecting the received tradition to critical appraisal. We cannot duck this challenge by resorting to revelation as a direct apprehension of the truth. However God reveals himself, it is we who have to decide whether or not it is God revealing himself, and we engage our critical faculties in an attempt to interpret the revelation.

This is an ongoing process. Truth is a worthy objective ideal but it is an elusive goal. We must distinguish between conviction, which is a psychological state, and certainty in an objective sense.

Our convictions can sadly and often dangerously mislead us, hence the urgency of subjecting even our most cherished convictions to critical scrutiny. Truth is, unfortunately, not readily and easily accessible. This is what rationality is about. It is a critical process and it is the way in which our God-given minds must function if we are to grow in understanding of God and his world.

We do not, indeed cannot, reject all tradition. The given tradition, whether in religion or in any other sphere of human concern, is all we have to go on. The rational, critical approach must have a tradition to work on. There might well be, and often is,

much of the tradition that is of long-lasting value. Nevertheless, tradition must not stand in the way of truth.

These points are crucial to all our thinking and believing and knowing and acting. In particular, the need to be taken to heart by those who claim that religious truths are God-given and unassailable.

At the heart of this attitude can lie a fanaticism which leads to authoritarian control and violent repression.

With regard to the debate about homosexuality, the fact that there is no generally accepted consensus means that the debate must go on and that it should be conducted in measured terms without acrimony on either side. Sexuality is a subject about which we are better informed than our predecessors but there is still much more to learn. We will get nowhere if we do not subject received traditions to critical scrutiny in order to get a little nearer the truth.

As far as the virgin conception is concerned, instead of concentrating our invective on traitors to the tradition we should attempt to search it out for meaning and truth. So far, the debate on the virgin conception has been conducted at a somewhat abstract theological level, but much light can be thrown on it as a result of our increased understanding of the human reproductive process. If we want to test out the truth, we must surely take these factors into account and not cling willy-nilly to a particular interpretation of the tradition.

For a religion to retain its identity there must be a tradition to pass on, but let that tradition be ever subject to critical scrutiny in the light of increasing human understanding. That, surely, is an essential part of what growing up in the faith is all about.

## The beliefs of the past should not be embraced unconditionally, says

Derek Stanesby, a Canon of Windsor

lead us into all truth. So the Bible is telling us that we should embrace once-for-all eternally revealed verities, but that we should seek the truth.

The only way to go about this pilgrimage of exploration for the truth is by subjecting the received tradition to critical appraisal. We cannot duck this challenge by resorting to revelation as a direct apprehension of the truth. However God reveals himself, it is we who have to decide whether or not it is God revealing himself, and we engage our critical faculties in an attempt to interpret the revelation.

This is an ongoing process. Truth is a worthy objective ideal but it is an elusive goal. We must distinguish between conviction, which is a psychological state, and certainty in an objective sense.

Our convictions can sadly and often dangerously mislead us, hence the urgency of subjecting even our most cherished convictions to critical scrutiny. Truth is, unfortunately, not readily and easily accessible. This is what rationality is about. It is a critical process and it is the way in which our God-given minds must function if we are to grow in understanding of God and his world.

We do not, indeed cannot, reject all tradition. The given tradition, whether in religion or in any other sphere of human concern, is all we have to go on. The rational, critical approach must have a tradition to work on. There might well be, and often is,







## Leaders scrutinized

Robert Gore-Langton looks at the treatment of ancient politics in two of the RSC's current productions

The only two Shakespeare plays with truly pessimistic endings are *Coriolanus* and *Troilus and Cressida*. *Troilus* has had no history of performance until this century. *Coriolanus*, which has fared better on stage because of its sensational leading role, is probably still the least known of the big tragedies. In academic circles, too, both plays have also been resisted. A pet theory among theatre practitioners is that the sport-bating, shy school-swots go to become professional academics who habitually misunderstand or avoid plays that deal with dynamic leadership.

Terry Hands, who subscribed to this theory when he could find "nothing rational" written about *Henry V*, has directed both plays twice during his time at the Royal Shakespeare Company, and now brings to the Barbican his production of *Coriolanus*—the Roman dictator, hated by the Tribunes, brought down by his mother, Sam Mendes, a little shorter in the tooth, is making his debut with the RSC at Stratford's Swan theatre. His *Troilus*, which opened last week to excellent reviews, is only his second-ever Shakespeare. At 24 he is, coincidentally, the same age as Sir Peter Hall when he founded the company. *Troilus* and *Cressida*, a highbrow masterpiece written for an elite audience at the Inns of Court, casts a cynical eye on the Trojan war and turns the mythical cast of Homer's *Iliad* into a collection of playboys, sobs and tarts.

In different conversations, both directors discussed Shakespeare's approach to the worlds of Greeks, Trojans and Romans. The last RSC *Troilus* was given a Crimean setting. For Sam Mendes, there could be no visual updating of Troy to Beirut or Ulster; no Berlin Walls or Lithuanians. "If anything, we have located it racially. What became clear during rehearsals was the deep loathing of the Greeks for the Trojans. In Classical myth, the Trojans, ancestors of the British, were pale skinned as opposed to the sun-burnt Greeks. The Trojans are thus the English; those in the Greek Armada, the Spanish. The Greeks have, I think, this foreign feel."

The play, which Mendes describes as "an orchestration of dissonances", gives a dizzy array of perspectives on the themes of time, politics and love and war. "One of the things the play asks is what it means to be a warrior. That now needs reassessing. The *Iliad* is all about people who fight. Are warriors meaningless to a contemporary audience because by instinct we (liberal theatre types) frown upon them? The play

both derides and celebrates the warrior figure. We mustn't cut out that celebration aspect, even if it is not right, as the plays prove in the end. But that is a journey that the play must take, not me as its director."

The Homeric warriors may be thoroughly debunked, but the play is not without glamour. There is a sexual strain beneath the political decision-making, as Mendes is keen to reveal. "Doing the play I am constantly reminded of a Hitchcock phrase: shoot your murders like love scenes and your love scenes like murders. The meeting between Achilles and Hector is a love scene. Pure theatre for those watching, but underneath deeply sensual and dangerous. Similarly, the love scene between Diomed and Cressida is like a battle: retreats, attacks and advances. The secret is to play each scene for its full value."

Back at the Barbican, Terry Hands argues that "*Troilus* and *Coriolanus* are the greatest political plays that Shakespeare wrote. *Julius Caesar* is more about what it is to be a political figure. *Coriolanus* is about the evolution of the state—it's for everyone. It's always popular with audiences, since it offers them the quintessential dilemma—the need for strong, protective leadership and the need for everyone to have a say. You can't, in the end, run anything by committee."

"Shakespeare saw leadership as necessary and therefore worthy of a study in itself. Since the last war most English people have seen it as something to avoid. But in the last 20 years Mrs Thatcher has resurrected a concept of leadership. The swing is now maybe going the other way."

"*Coriolanus* is a tragic hero in the wrong time. He can't retire—he must be incorporated into the system. We made Wellington a prime minister: the worst ever. What about Churchill? Tragically, and I say this with sadness, people eventually wanted him to die so that we could honour him and get on. The same is true with *Coriolanus*; they make him prime minister and it doesn't work."

One link between *Troilus* and *Coriolanus* is that they are the only plays with unbelievably bleak endings. "Only these two plays end with a sense of terrible waste, of no future," says Hands. "There is no Malcolm or Fortinbras to follow, just dead bodies and hopelessness. *Coriolanus*'s son, at the end, is clearly going to grow up to be just like his father. So perhaps that is what politics is: cycle after cycle of democratic rule followed by individual leadership. The pattern may be inevitable. We need to stage these great political metaphors from time to time. But of course *Coriolanus*, like *Troilus*, ultimately asks 'what is love?'. In the end, it is a profoundly human story that is being told."

● *Troilus* and *Cressida* is currently playing at the Swan in Stratford. *Coriolanus* opens at the Barbican on Wednesday.

John Percival reviews the Royal Ballet's quadruple-bill, and a new cast for *Giselle*

## Star quality shines bright

WHAT makes a guest star special? Why is it that Sylvie Guillem and Laurent Hilaire harvested more cheers for their dancing in Jerome Robbins' showpiece, *Other Dances*, at Covent Garden on Saturday than the Royal Ballet's own dancers in modern works by the three house choreographers? Why the ovation for two Kirov guests, Altyon Asymuratova and Konstantin Zaklinsky, in *Giselle* two nights earlier?

It is not just publicity or snobbery. The Russians really did breathe life into the old classic. Every movement was heartfelt. They are marvellously matched, too—his big, blond directness setting off her small, dark eroticism. He makes Albrecht seem a nice guy (no cheating with the flower petals that are counted to prove his love) and she is a *Giselle* unusually fond of her mother.

Their acting in the Leningrad manner, big in emblematic gestures rather than realistic mime, comes over convincingly. The French couple in Robbins' deceptively casual-looking dances to Chopin mazurkas and a waltz get every tiny detail exact and clear. A sly smile, a speculative glance, even a pretended mistake in one of his solos, or the way the admirable pianist, Antony Twinn, turns to look after one of her exits: all are carefully placed. This is high art made to look artless; every detail is exactly projected for maximum impact.

It is significant that the best received of the British ballets in this programme was *Gloria*, the one where the choreographer, Kenneth MacMillan, had the clearest purpose and dictated exactly the dramatic impetus as well as the shape of his dances. Set to Poulenc's score, with Linda Kitchen, soprano, and the Covent Garden Chorus and Orchestra conducted by Richard Bernard, this aims to evoke a sense of waste by

means not unlike Britten's *War Requiem*: showing the nastiness of the 1914-18 conflict against a contrasting religious solemnity. The designs by MacMillan's discovery Andy Klunder (a flayed, corrupted effect in all the costumes, trenches or graves, behind a mysteriously brooding framework) contribute strongly to the effect—although the men's tin hats have begun curving at the brims and some are worn at an inappropriately rakish angle.

*Gloria* was mostly very well danced, with Maria Almeida as its remote ghostly heroine and Wendy Ellis in her best role, as the contrasted vivacious girl—a flapper before her time—brilliantly matched by Ashley Page, Bruce Sansom and Adam Cooper in dances full of quick, wispy leaps and throws.

There was good dancing also from two casts (matinee and evening) in the other two ballets, but to nothing like the same effect. David Bintley's *Galanteries* and Page's *Pursuit* are both plotless works for eight women and four men. Both suffer from their designs. Jan Blake's for Bintley is too wishy-washy and blue-grey subdued, Jack Smith's for Page is colourful, but overwhelming.

Bintley's choice of music is Mozart. His dances are fluent, inventive, but too smooth, too much in good taste: one wants to be startled more. Page has a highly regarded, but not easily penetrable, modern score by Colin Matthews and his dances follow rather than illuminate it. He throws in balletic pomp, mechanical doll effects, some *commedia* dalliance, for a sometimes exhilarating but confusing mix.

These works are attractive, competent, interesting, and contain many potentially exciting performances, but do not present the dancers to full effect.



MacMillan's *Gloria*: contrasting conflict and religious solemnity

## Tragedy also comes to the working classes

THEATRE  
Jeremy Kingston

Maria Magdalena Gate

UNTIL the middle of the last century, tragic heroes were drawn exclusively from the upper classes. Common people might be allowed an appearance, but only if they brought a basket of asps along with them, or bad news from another part of the palace.

Two German playwrights were the first to challenge the notion that tragic events came only to those of gentle birth. Büchner's *Woyzeck*, though written in the 1830s, remained unknown until the end of the century, so that Friedrich Hebbel's *Maria Magdalena*, written and produced 10

years later, became the first performed play in which griefs are experienced by a commoner.

The victim is Klara, daughter of a joiner in a small German town. In a cast that includes a merchant and two bailiffs, the villain is a cashier who persuades Klara to give him the final proof of her love, and the hero a young lawyer, the childhood sweetheart whom she never expected to meet again.

The joiner's parlour is a long way from a throne-room, but Death's blade sweeps through both. When Klara's brother is arrested on suspicion of stealing jewels, the mother drops down dead on the spot. Fearful of her father's wrath, Klara dare not tell him she is pregnant, and while lawyer and cashier shoot it out, she throws herself down a well.

This production, apparently the first in English, is by Theatre

Manoeuvres, a relaunch of plc Theatre Company, which staged a spare, imaginatively updated *Don Carlos* two years ago. Their Hebbel is also transposed to a time and place that seem at first to be excessively far from the original: instead of provincial Germany, a town in America's Mid-West some time in the 1950s.

It is a place where the fear of hellfire is still powerful, and abortion is as unthinkable to the pony-tailed Klara as to her 1844 predecessor. But though the strength and acuteness is retained in her scenes with the young men and with the sickly mother (excellently played by Marie Stillin), the ascent into tragedy keeps slipping back into bathos.

Laura Eddy's anxious urchin face and clenched hands are altogether persuasive early on, but when the character dawdles under

a roof, hoping to be killed by a falling slate—and tells us so in a soliloquy—it is hard to believe that these are likely tricks of a member of the Debbie Reynolds generation.

Until the last scene defeats everyone, Malcolm Edwards draws fine, realistic performances from the women, from Robert Bowman (sharp, finger-flicking rotter), and from Alexis Denisof as the neat, considerate, fresh-cheeked chap Klara should have married. Robert Jezek brings too little weight to the religious father.

It would be hard to imagine a heroine further from today's feminist ideal, and yet, despite or because of that, the play is continually fascinating. It desperately needs an interval, however, and since the two acts are each 55 minutes long, I cannot imagine why we are not given one.

## Jingles all the way

TELEVISION  
Sheridan Morley

WHILE looking for signs of change in society, television has been getting better and better at examining the fluff in its own navel. The ready availability of clips from programmes that became instantly shared experiences, at least until the fragmentation of video and satellite, meant that history could be written on a television screen and scrolled back and forth long before the arrival of a computer.

In this vein, *Washes Whiter* (BBC 2), which ended a riveting run last night, was a survey of something more than just the jingle and the commercial break since 1956. As David Puttnam remarked, "If you want to know how a generation sees itself, look at its commercials." It is arguable that you could learn more about England in the last 30 years from watching what happened during the breaks of *This Week* or *World in Action* than from the documentaries themselves.

Initially, there was the refusal to sell at all: early ITV commercials looked like wartime propaganda films, and John Betjeman's celebrated three-minute travelogue for Shell never mentioned petrol. Indeed, the rustic villages they celebrated were specifically those without garages.

As the age of paternal reassurance gave way to the Swinging Sixties, cigarette advertising allied itself to high-rise architecture, at least until Ronan Point collapsed and the first cancer statistics were gathered.

Petrol companies then began to sell not the product, but the dream—not the petrol, but what it could do for a getaway man. Cigarettes were sold on mood, not price.

Commercials, by now, were not afraid to look as if they were selling something. By 1980, what they were selling was the whole Thatcherite package, in which Esso advertising was based on Abraham Lincoln's inaugural speech about the enterprise culture being good for the nation.

By the end of the Eighties, commercials were still about winning and performance: advertising had accepted a City of London culture. Then the market crashed and the yuppies were abandoned in favour of a new flight to the old rustic values of family life.

The "me decade" has now given way to the "us decade"; we must start worrying about the planet. Cars are now advertised not for performance or status, but by images of anxious fathers racing to the bedsides of pregnant mothers.

Advertising, as Robert Hewison, the social historian, said over the closing credits of *Washes Whiter*, has only one real problem: it is the perfect copy of an original which never really existed. That, however, has sometimes been true of television itself.

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## Russian autumn

CONCERTS  
Hilary Finch

Nicolai Gedda  
Wigmore Hall

THIS has been the spring of the autumnal singer. With concerts by Fischer-Dieskau, Victoria de los Angeles, Mirella Freni and Nicolai Gedda within days of each other, the air has been thick with an aura of warm, well-wishing idolatry.

Would Gedda, at 65, deliver the goods? At the start of his Wigmore recital, there was

some doubt: Duparc seemed an unnecessarily masochistic choice, and a tentative "L'invitation au voyage" promised little for the journey ahead. Both "Phidyle" and "Chanson Triste" sounded short of oxygen, but the fusion of nervous tension and a skilful legato in half-voice created its own telling frisson for "Extase".

The dominant sensation of the recital was one of consummate artistry and cunning stage-management. Nowhere was this more true than in Gedda's carefully chosen selection of Wolf's "Mörke" songs: each a refuge of character and caricature in which the voice could unashamedly play a part.

The hangover song ("Zur Warnung") came over as an angular, almost post-Wolffian

example of *sprechstimme*, the parsonic account of the wedding capitalized on the thoroughly Wolfian dialogue between Geoffrey Parsons' wry harmonic subtext and Gedda's own manipulation of each mordant phrase.

Mother, or (more appropriately for Gedda) Father Russia dominated the second half. By now, all nervousness had been smoothed into a

gliding line for the yearning of "Tell me, star", sharpened into vintage knife-edge Gedda for "King Saul", and moulded into a nicely winning complacency for the satirical song about the Classicist. It remained only for the exuberant "Spring waters" of Rachmaninov to flow into a series of encores, which were begun by two disarmingly simple Russian folk songs.

## Cellists take bow

David Fallows

Jacqueline Du Pré  
Memorial Concert  
RNCM, Manchester

BEETHOVEN's five sonatas for cello and piano make a long evening. If you round it off by adding his three variations sets, it becomes something of a binge. But there can be few more satisfying ways to explore the range of Beethoven's style, from the two Opus 5 sonatas, perhaps the strangest and most ambitious of his early works, via the consummate middle-period masterpiece, Opus 69 in A major, through to the two miracles of compression in Opus 102, the first of his final-period works.

It was also a fine way to acknowledge several overseas cellists who have rarely been heard in England. They were here for the Second International Cello Festival organized by the inextinguishable Ralph Kirshbaum at the Royal Northern College of Music. Each took one of the works in a concert supporting the Jacqueline Du Pré Memorial Fund.

Obviously there is a danger that an enterprise like this will seem rather like those Young Musician contests, that are televised from the same hall—though if there were to be a winner it would probably be

the pianist Ian Brown, whose immaculately judged playing did so much for Wolfgang Boettcher in the *Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen* variations, Op 56, and for the Swedish cellist Frans Helmerson in the Sonata Op 5 no 2.

The other main danger is that the performances could be so different as to distract attention from the music. That was avoided by choosing cellists of a remarkably similar kind: there was no original stringing or use of early pianos here. The only major differences were in Thomas Demenga's beautifully understated reading of the early variations on *See the Conquering Hero Comes*, and particularly in Zara Nelsova's passionately idiosyncratic reading of the Opus 69 sonata.

This was perhaps a performance that was easy to dislike from the broad and loud playing of the opening piano phrase, to the perpetual heavy vibrato. At the same time, however, it was vital and irresistible: every detail will remain in the memory long after others are forgotten. It remains to record that Antonio Meneses, with Anthony Goldstone, opened with a performance of the first sonata that underlined its extraordinary originality; and that the Lithuanian cellist David Geringas, with Julian Jacobson, was a little insensitive in the first Opus 102 sonata. This piece of international co-operation was crowned by Ralph Kirshbaum, with the imaginative partnership of Peter Frank in the *Bei Männern* variations and Opus 102 no 2.

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# Hunting where the fur flies

As Harrods bows to current social and environmental pressures and closes its fur department, Nicola Murphy joins what may turn out to be one of the last mink hunts in Britain, and weighs the hunters' arguments that they are simply fulfilling a need



Hounding the mink: "On a hot day, it's absolutely gorgeous," a devotee says. "It's not cruel, because the mink do escape." But are the hunters now an endangered species?

This month, after 140 years of selling furs, Harrods closed its salon. As animal rights activists everywhere celebrated, I went hunting for the creature which produces the coats with the highest profile: mink. I joined one of the first hunts of what may well be one of the last seasons. For after a long-running drama, featuring saboteurs and undercover agents, the hunters' traditional stance — that they are engaged in pest control and conservation — is under serious attack.

Often mistaken for otters, mink in fact are much smaller — half the length and a fifth of the weight. Britain's first mink colony was founded in the 1950s, and by 1970, when the fur boom collapsed, there were some 700 registered ranches farming the American mink, *Mustela vison*, which had been imported since 1929. Some mink escaped from increasingly badly maintained cages, while some owners simply released them, not expecting any

to survive. "In an act of equally gross stupidity animal libertarians let out more," says John Bryant from the League Against Cruel Sports. In 1975 Mr Bryant was acquitted of the charge of releasing two beagles taken from an ICI laboratory.

Between 1965 and 1970, the Ministry of Agriculture regarded mink as a pest because they attacked farmland poultry, and attempted in vain to eradicate them by trapping. In 1978, mink hunting was officially recognized as a field sport.

Bob Tucker, one of the joint masters of the Yuro Hunt in Dorset, has been first otter and then mink hunting for 35 years. An enormous man in green hunting uniform and plus-fours, he met me at a pub. When he was satisfied that I had not brought along saboteurs, I was allowed to join the hunt, although the white-haired wife of a farmer felt Mr Tucker had not taken enough care: "You're one of them," she said. "I don't like speaking to people like you."

Feelings against saboteurs run understandably high, since their activities can involve violence against hunters. "They're supposed to be animal lovers," says Rose Witcome, joint master and keeper of hounds for 41 years, "but they killed a bitch by beating her with chains. I'd like to shoot them." The League Against Cruel Sports also condemns such activists: "Their tactics are disastrous as no government can be seen to give in to violence. It's a form of terrorism, and it's particularly evil to terrorize in the name of a humane cause."

Mr Bryant says: "The league accepts that farmers have to resort to trapping mink," but its attitude to the hunters has been less benign. They first clashed in the years before 1977, before the otter became a protected species. Mr Bryant recalls jumping in a river to save an otter.

The drama intensified in 1981 when the league successfully introduced a "mole" into the hunters' ranks. He was Michael Huskisson, then the league's press

officer. Huskisson, who had been acquitted on the charge of stealing three beagles from an ICI laboratory in 1975, had been jailed two years later for his part in the desecration of the grave of the huntsman John Peel. Huskisson stayed under cover for two years and then emerged with a film which, among other things, alleged to disprove the mink hunters' claims of an "instant kill". The hunters have always denied the validity of the film. Huskisson was jailed again, in 1986, for his involvement in a raid on research laboratories.

The Yuro huntsmen and "whippers" whom I accompanied took care to ensure that the hounds did not go after deer, and that they did not go into an area where others were thought to be. In fact, nothing at all happened. No mink were found. Some 20 foxhounds, otterhounds and crossbreeds snuffled along the river bank. They only ever barked to "speak" to a rabbit; more cows gave tongue than did any of the dogs. They were watched by a

bunch of elderly local residents walking their dogs. "On a hot day," says Susan Morris Jones, aged 29, says, "it's absolutely gorgeous. It's not cruel, because the mink do escape."

This, of course, is the argument for "good sport" — but nowadays mink hunting is not supposed to be good sport, but good pest control. When the Master himself admits that the young hounds often "go the wrong way for three-quarters of a mile", this appears a dubious aim.

Alin Rickard, the south-west regional spokesman for the British Field Sports Society and a former Master, makes no such admissions. He says hunting is the most effective means of control, as "mink are wise to traps".

John Birks of the Nature Conservancy Council disagrees. Dr Birks, who wrote his PhD on mink and has conducted post-doctoral research ever since, says: "It's absolute nonsense. You catch

far more mink by targeting sites at risk and using 'live cage' traps. While the hunt is on, other mink could be killing more chickens."

The hunters say preservation of wild life is their main concern: "We're the conservationists," one said; "mink ruin the ecological balance," another added. According to Dr Birks, both are mistaken. He claims that national surveys run by the British Ornithological Trust and Wildfowl Trust indicate there has been no serious decline in wildfowl in the past 30 years — although on offshore islands such as the Hebrides mink do cause considerable damage to ground-nesting birds, such as terns, which are unaccustomed to predators. "Mink are a useful scapegoat, particularly because it is much more satisfying to blame an alien animal," Dr Birks says.

Mr Rickard claims mink make it difficult for others to recolonize, — and have "decimated water-vole and moorhen populations in many areas". In fact, like its cousin, the European mink, the animal has been monitored living

side by side with otters and water-voles, according to Dr Birks. Not mink but the increased number of crows, he says are to blame for eating the eggs of coots and moorhens.

"The main danger is that so long as they blame mink, as they previously blamed the otters, the real causes will remain undetected," Dr Birks says.

Another area of contention is the extent to which wildlife is disturbed. "All reputable bodies are against hunting because of the disruption," Mr Bryant says, while Mr Rickard insists that the frequent checking of traps causes more disturbance. "It is in the interests of hunters to keep public sympathy," Dr Birks says. "To do so, some propagate misinformation and blatantly ignore research."

Whoever is right, hunters are undoubtedly an endangered species: in 1987, 19 hunts were registered in *Bailey's Hunting Directory*; today there are 12. It's the mink who are here to stay.

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Never mind the quality, feel the width as the latest thing in unisex, unisex denim hits the streets

## Fat, thin, big or small: it's all in the jeans

FAT persons of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your dignity. A jeans manufacturer, calling itself the Legendary Joe Bloggs Company, insists it has invented a pair of one-size unisex denim which flatter the fullest figure.

On someone who is slim the jeans are designed to be fashionably baggy. On the corpulent they are... snug.

The photographic session where opera singer Katharine Witney agreed to model this novel garment was delayed because the diva was having a little difficulty in the changing room. But it was not, as the photographer suggested, because 30-year-old Ms Witney could not get into the jeans.

"I put on false nails in an attempt to make myself look a bit more glamorous but found I couldn't cope with the fly buttons," she explained.

You can judge for yourself how successful the jeans, which can span sizes 10 to 20,

are (Ms Witney is seated on the left in our photograph), but Ms Witney, whose vital statistics are 45-35-46, pronounced them "very comfortable. I don't tend to wear jeans because they are usually so tight around the thighs, but these are nice and baggy," she said. "They seem to be built for big ladies. Most designers don't seem to know we do things like go in at the waist, even if it isn't very far."

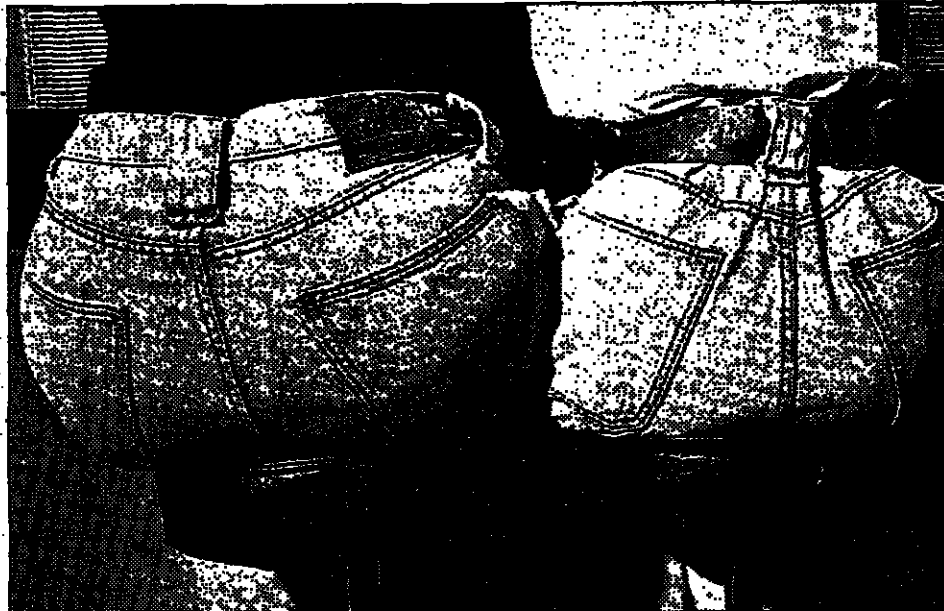
Shami Ahmed, managing director of Legendary Joe Bloggs, a name he chose because it was "common-sounding and truly British", is planning a £50,000 advertising campaign in this country. Then he intends to launch the LJB jeans in Europe, America and Australia.

Last week the tabloid press gave the jeans, and the company's search for a fat model to promote them, some coverage — since when, Mr Ahmed says, "our switchboard has been jammed".

"It's an absolutely stupid idea," says Michael Reeves of clothes company Steel and Reeves, which caters for sizes 16 to 26. "It's just about an impossibility. The jeans are going to look absolutely different on different sized women. They say men look good in these enormous jeans. I'm 45 and I look perfectly ridiculous."

You can do almost anything with jeans, and over the years the manufacturers have. They have made us lie on the floor, prising ourselves into our drainpipes, they have made us bulge and show our pantie lines in stretch jeans. They have made us dump our little black dresses to wear straight westerns to cocktail parties.

Among today's teenagers the only things to wear are sexual, baggy, flared jeans — and Mr Ahmed has just the job for them, too. "We make the widest flares in England at 25 inches," he says, adding modestly: "There's two things



Bottom line on one-size jeans: a girl and her mum can save money by sharing a pair

in Manchester: one is Strangeways, the other is us." The four-year-old company manufactures one and a half million pairs of jeans a year. The one-size jeans will sell for between £40 and £50, and Mr Ahmed predicts that they are going to be the jeans of the future, inspired not only by the unisex trend but by the economic climate. "A size 16 woman on a diet can end up size 12, she won't have to buy new jeans. A girl and her mum can share a pair; a boy and his dad can share a pair. And a size 10 pregnant woman should be able to keep on wearing her jeans," Mr Ahmed explains.

Only time will tell whether he is right. In addition to jeans, fat women were once advised never to wear white or horizontal stripes. Will we see Dawn French sporting a pair of striped jeans in the next series? Will the Weather Girls be singing "It's Raining Men" and dancing in white jeans at their next concert? "Never," says Mr Reeves.

## After-dinner artistry

THE after-dinner speaker, rising to face his tipsy audience, may be disconcerted to realize that he is being judged not only by them but also — and dispassionately — by the grand figure in brass buttons who has just played silence for him. But it must be so: every year the Guild of Professional Toastmasters solemnly confers before presenting an award to its After-Dinner Speaker of the Year. Its interpretation of after-dinner speaking is rather loose: this year Margaret Thatcher has won the elegant rosewood gavel for her Tory conference speech. The only other Prime Minister to be so honoured was Harold Wilson.

But wherever seasoned speakers meet to compare their witticisms, there will be some resentful mutterings. After all, Mrs Thatcher had an Autocue machine, a carefully designed stage-set and a loyal, hand-picked audience. Would she have been as effective faced with a dog-eared pack of index cards, a howling microphone and a roomful of sozzled Rotarians?

Even the ritziest of £1,000-a-night speakers has to contend with some or all of these handicaps. Those of us who operate rather lower down the financial scale suffer even worse indignities. I have never forgotten the chairperson who cheerily said: "Thank you, Old Mrs Wetherby stayed awakes nearly to the end, which is always a good sign", especially as I had been miffing every punch-line in the last 10 minutes because of my growing conviction that Mrs Wetherby had died in her chair. And John Timpson, an old warhorse of the after-dinner circuit, once reported the harrowing experience of getting his fee paid at the table, counted out in florins from the raffle-money tin.

Mrs Thatcher got her speaker's gavel the easy way

The art of after-dinner speaking involves more than just owning a good speech. Such smoothies as Cecil Parkinson and Jeffrey Archer give chillingly polished performances, but they don't raise the roof. Relaxed audiences like a speaker who sounds as if he (or she) is making it up on the hoof, and might get indiscreet at any moment. This is a magical feeling, generated by the most unexpected people: the Princess Royal, at private, unreported dinners, is surprisingly spontaneous and very funny. Broadcasters such as Brian Redhead are always successful too, their trade having taught them a mock-ingenious conversational fluency that is the opposite of the orator's rant.

Part of the knack is sizing up the audience, its interests, intelligence, sobriety and moral tone. In the front line of real after-dinner speaking you are faced with an unquantifiable company: one showbiz acquaintance was in the act of rising to his feet at a business dinner when the chairman leant across and hissed "Nothing mucky!". He slammed in a mental filter just in time to change the VD joke into one about a parrot.

If Mrs Thatcher's well-supported polish earns her the rosewood gavel, there should be some lesser prizes, too — a cheap pine version, maybe, awarded to a real trouper for courage in adversity. I would favour the literary-luncheon back who bravely struggles from city to city with his pile of books, preaching to hatted ladies and bored booksellers full of duchesse potatoes.

I once — only once — spoke at two literary lunches in the same week, and my fellow-speaker at both was Gerald Durrell. Meeting on the second day we looked at one another in mild dismay. Durrell said: "Tell you what. You do my speech, I'll do yours. I can remember most of it." If we had dared, we should both have got gavels for it. Compressed-sawdust ones, perhaps.

Libby Purves

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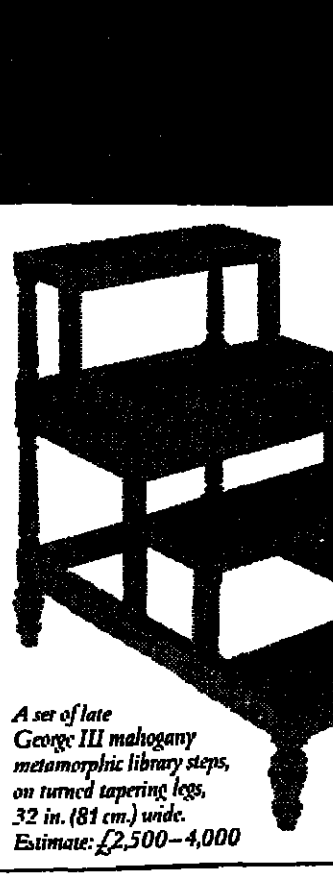
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Pick of the Week



A set of late George III mahogany metamorphic library steps, on turned tapering legs, 32 in. (81 cm.) wide. Estimate: £2,500-4,000

## CHRISTIE'S

OUR season of country house sales begins today when contents, surplus to requirements, will be sold at Nostell Priory on the instruction of the Winn Family.

The two-day sale will feature 300 lots of furniture including early English oak, Georgian, Regency and fine 19th century pieces by makers such as Gillow. Works of art, prints, textiles, porcelain, maps, garden ornaments, arms, armour and antiques acquired by the family over the last 300 years will also be offered.

This set of late George III library steps is included in the sale at Nostell Priory, Wakefield, Yorkshire on Monday, 30 April and Tuesday, 1 May at 11.00 a.m. For further information on this and any other sales in the next week, please telephone (01) 581 7611 or Christie's 24-hour Auction Information Service on (01) 839 9060.

8 King Street, London SW1  
85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7  
164-166 Bath Street, Glasgow



## POSTS

# COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION INNS OF COURT SCHOOL OF LAW REGISTRAR

Applications are invited from professional administrators for appointment to the post of Registrar.

The post demands a high level of administrative, organisational and managerial performance combined with experience of working with computers. An ability to initiate action, whilst handling a heavy work load of a routine nature, is essential. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are required. Previous experience in educational administration would be an advantage.

The salary will be by agreement, but will not be less than £27,740 per annum (inclusive of a London Allowance of £1,767 per annum).

The appointment will be from 1st July 1990, or earlier by agreement.

Further details are available from the Sub-Dean, The Council of Legal Education, 4 Gray's Inn Place, London WC1R 5DX (Tel: 01 (071 from 6th May) - 404-5787).

The closing date for applications is Monday 21st May 1990.

## UNIVERSITY OF BATH

## SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for three Professorships:

1. PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS  
(reference 90/107)  
with interests in Radio, Satellite and Telecommunications and Networks or Signal and Image Processing.

2. PROFESSOR OF ELECTRONICS  
(reference 90/107)  
with interests in Control Electronics and Microwaves or VLSI Circuits for Analog and Digital Applications.

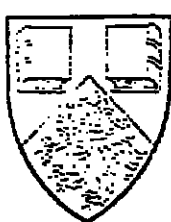
3. PROFESSOR OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING  
(reference 90/108)  
with interests in the broad area of electrical engineering, including Control Systems, Magnetics, Power Systems or Power Electronics.

Applicants should have a first class record and strong links with industry.

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor J F Eastham, Head of School, tel. Bath (0225) 826056.

Further written particulars may be obtained from Peter J Hill, University Personnel Office, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY, tel. Bath (0225) 826026, quoting reference numbers as given above.

Closing date for applications: 8th June 1990



## WESTHILL COLLEGE BIRMINGHAM

The TRUSTEES of WESTHILL COLLEGE wish to appoint for January, 1991 a

## PRINCIPAL

who will also be Co-Director of the Newman and Westhill Academic Association.

Westhill College was founded by and is supported by the main Free Churches. It now works in close academic association with the neighbouring Newman College (Roman Catholic) and together they constitute a School within the Faculty of Education and Continuing Studies with over 1,000 students training as primary teachers, community and youth workers and church workers. Westhill is also part of the Federation of Selly Oak Colleges which has strong international links.

The person appointed should have good academic qualifications and appropriate professional experience and will be expected to give strong leadership to the Westhill College community and contribute to the development of the academic programmes as Co-Director of the Association and Head, in rotation, of the Colleges School, Creative planning and financial management skills are essential together with a commitment to this unique ecumenical venture in higher education, involving relationships between the Associated Colleges, the University and the Selly Oak Federation.

The salary will be within the range of £35,000 - £40,000.  
Closing date for applications: FRIDAY, 25th MAY, 1990.

Further particulars from the Clerk to the Governors, Westhill College, Wesley Park Road, Birmingham, B29 6LL. Telephone: 021-472 7245.

The Colleges School of the Faculty of Education and Continuing Studies of the University of Birmingham.

## UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN CLASSICS

Required for the three months October-December 1990, a Lecturer able to teach ancient philosophy and/or Greek language and literature.

The salary for a full-time appointment will be in the range of £10,458 - £14,703 p.a. on the Lecturer Grade A Scale. Applications will also be welcome from candidates unable to take a full-time appointment but able to teach part-time in either of the fields mentioned.

Further particulars may be obtained from The Personnel Officer, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP (Tel: 091 374 4687) to whom applications (three copies, including a full CV and the names of three referees) should be sent not later than Wednesday 30th May 1990.

Please quote reference 525.

## oxford polytechnic

Department of Hotel and Catering Management  
LECTURER/SENIOR LECTURER IN HUMAN RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT FOR THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

REF: 134/SLC  
Salary Scale £21,117 - £29,511

Applicants should have:  
• A degree in Hotel and Catering Management or the Social Sciences and, preferably, membership of the Institute of Personnel Management.  
• Relevant academic and/or industrial experience.  
• A higher degree or research experience would be an advantage.  
Responsibilities include:  
• Contributing to the teaching of Human Resource Management, Industrial Relations and other aspects of a wide variety of courses in Hospitality Management.  
• Contributing to research and consultancy.  
• Contributing to course development and administration.  
In-service training can be provided in teaching/learning.

LECTURER/SENIOR LECTURER IN FOOD SERVICE  
MANAGEMENT (ONE PERMANENT, ONE TEMPORARY ONE-  
YEAR APPOINTMENT)

REF: 135/SLC  
Salary Scale £21,117 - £29,511

Applicants should have:  
• A good honours degree in Hospitality Management or an equivalent qualification.  
• Significant management experience in the Hospitality Industry.  
Responsibilities include:  
• Contributing to teaching of Food and Beverage Management and Hospitality Management to a wide variety of courses.  
• Contributing to course development and administration.  
• Contributing to research and consultancy.  
In-service training can be provided in teaching/learning.

CATERING TECHNOLOGIST  
(TEMPORARY ONE YEAR APPOINTMENT)

REF: 136/SLC  
Salary Scale £12,897 - £16,521

Applicants should have:  
• An honours degree in Food Science or an equivalent qualification.  
• Relevant industrial/research experience.  
Responsibilities include:  
• Catering project management.  
• Scientific and technological inputs to consultancy projects.  
• Some teaching input to courses in Hotel and Catering Management.  
• Liaison of consultancy through contact with industry.  
The appointment is available for one calendar year, starting date to be agreed, and may be renewable.

TWO POSTGRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS  
IN ACCOUNTING FOR THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

REF: 137/SLC  
Salary Scale £7,497 - £10,257

Applicants should have:  
• A good honours degree in Hotel and Catering Management or an associated business discipline.  
Responsibilities include:  
• Research in Applied Managerial Accounting. The successful applicant will be expected to register for a higher degree.  
• A teaching element of up to six hours per week.  
Two posts are available from 1 September 1990, renewable annually to a maximum of three years.

TWO POSTGRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS IN HUMAN  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR  
WITH REFERENCE TO THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

REF: 138/SLC  
Salary Scale £7,497 - £10,257

Applicants should have:  
• A good honours degree in Hotel and Catering Management or a related area and an interest in human resource management or consumer behaviour.  
Responsibilities include:  
• Participation in a programme of research on employment in the hospitality industry or an aspect of the hospitality industry within one department. The successful applicant will be expected to register for a higher degree with the CMAA.  
• A teaching element of up to six hours per week.  
Two posts are available from 1 September 1990, renewable annually to a maximum of three years.  
Closing date for all applications: 10th May 1990.  
Further details of these posts available from the Personnel Department, Oxford Polytechnic, Gypsy Lane, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9BP. Telephone: Oxford (01865) 410001 or 410027 (24 hour answer phone service).

All full-time posts open to job sharing unless specifically excluded.

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## BRENTWOOD SCHOOL (H.M.C.)

## MATHEMATICS TEACHER

Required for September, 1990, a graduate teacher to join a large and successful MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT and to teach the subject up to GCSE Higher Level. Salary according to the Brentwood Salary Scale.

Applications, giving curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent to  
The Headmaster, Brentwood School, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AS.

## KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY OF King's College London AND THE INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY SENIOR LECTURER IN PSYCHIATRY

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Lecturer in the Joint Department of Psychological Medicine at King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry and the Institute of Psychiatry. The Senior Lecturer will be concerned in both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. Exceptional research opportunities are available and the person appointed will be encouraged to develop their own research expertise.

Holds will receive an Honorary Clinical Contract and will carry out clinical work in adult psychiatry in the new Integrated Clinical Service of King's College Hospital and the Maudsley/Bethlem Hospital. Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Senior Lecturer/Consultant scale.

Details of the post and the application procedure can be obtained from the Personnel Department, King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry on 071-325 3011.

Informal information can be obtained by telephoning Professor Robin Murray on 071-703 6091.

Applications including a full curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees should be sent to the Secretary of the School, Bessener Road, London, SE5 9PJ by 25 May 1990.



## CHIGWELL SCHOOL

HMC/iAPS - 600 pupils  
aged 7-18

## CHAPLAIN

required for September 1990.

Excellent facilities.

Rural location: near London.

Help with accommodation available.

Salary above Baker Scale.

Further details from:  
The Headmaster  
Chigwell School, Chigwell,  
Essex, IG7 6QF

01 - 500 2570/1396

57996

## CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL HOVE

The Governors are seeking applications from committed and caring R.C. teachers for the key post of

## DEPUTY HEAD

Girls' welfare will be one of several priorities. Cardinal Newman School is a thriving group 12 mixed comprehensive. 1550 on roll, 250 in Sixth Form.

From January 1991 new spinal scale salaries will be available for the appropriate applicants. Appointment should be for September 1990.

Further information and application forms, s.a.e. please to: The Head, Cardinal Newman School, Hove, Sussex

BN1 9AB

## LECTURER IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in English Literature from candidates who are prepared to teach courses in the period from 16th Century. Preference may be given to applicants with specialist knowledge in 20th Century Literature.

The appointment will be made in the salary range £11,000-14,500 with USS.

Further particulars may be obtained from Dr. Heather Lewis, Secretary and Registrar, University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 1BS, Tel: 0280-814080, to whom applications (three copies) should be sent by 30 May.

The University of Buckingham

## university college of swansea

## European Business Management School

The newly-established European Business Management School is seeking to strengthen further its academic faculty and has created eight new posts in a variety of disciplines.

## Chair in Finance or Accountancy Chair in Human Resource Management

Candidates should have a proven research and publication record and excellent teaching credentials. They should be able to provide academic leadership to the existing and new staff within their respective subject areas and be committed to the further development of the School. The salary will be in accordance with normal university practice and not less than £24,783 per annum.

## Senior Lectureship/Lectureship in Finance and Accounting Senior Lectureship/Lectureship in Human Resource Management

## Lectureships in I.T. and Quantitative Methods and in Marketing

Teaching experience is desirable as is a strong commitment to research and publishing. A higher degree is expected and, ideally, applicants should possess a PhD or be close to completion. Particular subject specialisation will not be regarded as a limiting factor for the right candidates. The appointments will date from 1 October 1990 or as soon as possible thereafter and will be on the following scales (under review): Senior Lecturers: £21,489 - £24,285 per annum Lecturers Grade A: £10,548 - £15,372 Grade B: £16,014 - £20,469

Confidential informal enquiries may be made to Professor B Gravener (0792 295180), but further particulars must be obtained from the Personnel Office, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP to which office they should be returned by Saturday 30 June 1990.



## TRENT COLLEGE

The Governors of Trent College invite applications from suitably qualified persons for the post of

## BURSAR

which will become vacant on the 1st January, 1991 on the retirement of the present Bursar. A Boarding and Day School, in membership of the H.M.C., with 610 pupils aged 11-18 years with 245 in co-educational Sixth Form.

Particulars of the Appointment and an Application Form may be obtained from:

The Headmaster, Trent College, Derby Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham. NG10 4AD.

The closing date for applications is Friday 18th May, 1990.

## ST VINCENT'S SCHOOL (Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul)

80 St Saviours Road  
St Leonards-on-Sea  
East Sussex TN38 0AT  
Telephone: (0424) 438210

Group 4 (S)

Applications are invited from practising Catholics who are qualified and suitably experienced teachers for the post of Deputy Headmaster (Education) of the secondary and boarding school for girls of secondary age who have emotional and behavioural problems. Current salary £14,500-£16,000 per annum plus non-resident Deputy Head Residential Schools Allowance £4,177 per annum (teacher rate not 14,500).

Full CV and letter of application should be sent to the Clerk to the Governing Body by May 14, 1990, with the names and addresses of three referees.

Further details of the post and the school are available from the Headmaster at the school address. Interested applicants are welcome to telephone the school to discuss the post or to arrange an informal visit.

Generous assistance with removal and resettlement will be given in approved cases. There is a possibility of temporary accommodation.

In addition to some teaching duties, the responsibilities of the person appointed will include in-service training, staff development and support, and curriculum development.



## HABERDASHERS' ASKE'S GIRLS' SCHOOL ELSTREE

## APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

Applications are invited, by 25 May 1990, for the post of Head which will become vacant upon the retirement of Mrs S. Wiltshire B.Sc. on 1st August 1991.

Details of the appointment, application forms and further particulars may be obtained from The Clerk to the Governors, Haberdashers' Hall, Staining Lane, London, EC2V 7DD (Fax 806 5738).

## MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE SPANISH

(HMC, 900 boarding pupils,  
fully co-educational since September 1989)

Required for September 1990 a well qualified Honorary graduate to teach Spanish throughout the school to A level and O level; entrance standard and also some French, preferably to A level standard. The Modern Languages department is large and thriving, and moves to excellent purpose-built new premises in September. A strong commitment to extra-curricular activities and a willingness to participate fully in boarding school community life are essential requirements.

Salary on Marlborough's own scale. Accommodation available for a single or married teacher.

Applications should reach the Master as soon as possible, with full curriculum vitae and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two or more referees, and by 12th May at the latest. Further details from the Master's Secretary, Marlborough College, Wiltshire SN4 1PA (telephone 5155111).

## DAME JOHANE BRADBURY'S SCHOOL, SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

The Governors invite applications for the post of Head, which will be vacant in September 1991. Dame Johane Bradbury's is an independent day school for girls and boys from 4 to 11 years of age and is affiliated to the Independent Schools Joint Council. There are at present 257 pupils and salary will be in accordance with the Scale for a Group 5 School plus 1%.

Full particulars of the post and form of application may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, R.J. Norton, 2 Royston Grove, Royston, Herts. SG8 9EP, to whom they should be returned by 25th May. It is proposed to interview candidates in June/July.

## KING'S COLLEGE LONDON READERSHIP IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Applications are invited for a Readership that has recently been established to strengthen the research of the rapidly developing Department of Computer Science. Research excellence and productivity are more important than areas of specialisation, but there may be preference for research areas outlined in further particulars or the Research Council can be obtained from the Deputy Personnel Officer, Mr G A Calvert, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS, or via computer terminal.

Telephone no. 01 873 2525.

Salary on Senior Lecturer/Reader scale with University £21,489-£24,285 p.a. plus £1,767 London allowance.

The closing date for receipt of applications: Thursday 31st May 1990.

# Priceless info for school leavers and graduates.

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Book now - fill in the coupon below and send to: Kate Dawson, Trotman & Company, 12 Hill Rise, Richmond, Surrey TW9 6UA. Tel (01) (081 from 6 May) 940 5668.

## SEMINAR TIMETABLE

THURSDAY 28 JUNE	FRIDAY 29 JUNE	SATURDAY 30 JUNE
10.30 - 11.10 Enterprise in Higher Education	10.30 - 11.10 Careers in Public Relations	10.30 - 11.10 Why enter Higher Education
11.30 - 12.10 Careers in Advertising	11.30 - 12.10 Why enter Higher Education	11.30 - 12.10 A Career in the Health Service
1.10 - 1.50 Teaching as a Career	1.10 - 1.50 Europe in 1992 - how will it affect students?	1.10 - 1.50 How Sponsorship works
3.10 - 3.50 Careers in Retailing	2.10 - 2.50 Careers in Retailing	2.10 - 2.50 Careers in Retailing
	3.10 - 3.50 Careers in Journalism	3.10 - 3.50 Careers in Hotel & Catering



## DIRECTIONS SEMINAR APPLICATION

Please insert number of tickets required under relevant seminar box.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_



## EDUCATION

## Learning to write plain English

Reports from Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools are often unfathomable. Douglas Broom assesses new moves to make them more palatable for the parent governor

When it comes to baffling parents with educational jargon, Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools (HMI) have a record that is second to none. But as a conference in Sheffield heard last week, the arch-obfuscators may yet turn out to be the parents' best allies in the continuing search for real parental power in schools.

Critics have often said that the inspectorate's prose reflects its Victorian origins. But even that fails to do justice to some of the truly awful expressions that have infested its reports.

Descriptions of the "quality of perceived learning experiences" have vied with statements that teaching was "satisfactory or worse" for sheer impenetrability.

The desire to praise what is good, even in a school which is otherwise plainly awful, has led to accusations that the resulting reports can be all things to all men.

In the days when school governors were hand-picked by local authorities, often for their knowledge of the education system, all this amounted to a minor irritant. But today's elected parent-governors find the lack of clarity infuriating.

As lay folk entrusted with considerable authority over teaching and the curriculum, they need someone to help provide a yardstick by which to measure the effectiveness of schools.

As last week's conference showed, things are changing. Thirty inspectors from all over Britain were brought together to discuss how to write for a lay audience. For a body steeped in the Service traditions of confidentiality and official invisibility, the very calling of the conference was a significant development.

Although the HMI would deny having kept anything but an open mind on education for a century and a half, it is far from being an open organization when dealing with those outside its ranks.

Individual inspectors, of whom there are 480 in England and Wales, are not permitted to talk to the Press. Neither are they permitted to allow themselves to be photographed. In the past, too, there was a reluctance to talk



What is happening in our schools? Pupils may know, but inspectors' reports have often left parents confused. Now there are signs that inspectors want to be understood

about their reports to anyone other than colleagues. Now there are moves to encourage inspectors to attend governors' meetings to explain their findings.

Operated on strictly hierarchical principles, the inspectorate subjects all its reports to a lengthy process of scrutiny and rewriting. One senior inspector confided: "When I finally saw my report in print it bore hardly any relation to what I had written."

Most reports emerge shorn of controversy and as balanced as they can be between criticism and praise. Some, however, cannot avoid harsh words.

Earlier this year, the inspectors produced their most strongly worded document, condemning shortcomings at Hackney Free and Parochial School in Bethnal Green. From graffiti to homework, the inspectors pulled no punches as they spelled out what was wrong with the 700-pupil comprehensive.

Far from attracting professional opprobrium, their frankness earned them praise.

"We are very aware of the need to be clear and understandable in what we write," said Inspector Charles Whitaker, who organized the Sheffield conference. "I am not sure that all the criticisms in the past have been entirely justified, but we do recognize the need to make ourselves understood. Part of that process is to define our readership."

As interest in education has widened, so has the audience for HMI reports. Ann Holt, the

director of Action on Governor Information and Training (AGIT), says the inspectorate still has a long way to go in responding to the change.

At one rural primary school in Devon, the head told me that none of her parent governors could read. "So how on earth are they supposed to understand HMI reports?" she asked.

"Governors feel very exposed and very much under pressure in their new roles. They need HMI to give them something against which they can measure the success or failure of their schools. Many of them feel lost." One of the inspectors at Sheffield, anonymous because of the rules on publicity, said he would be willing

to talk to a governing body about what he had written. "But I would not be willing to talk about individual teachers. The discussion would have to be based on the report, in which we do not discuss the performance of individual staff," he said.

Ms Holt took a much tougher line. "I think HMI are going to have to be prepared to go into a governing body meeting and justify what they have written," she said. "Governors will not just accept assertions, they will want the evidence to back them up."

James Hammond, the former chairman and now treasurer of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, agrees that HMI must be willing to explain

## INSPECTOR SPEAK

system would be used to award merit pay rises to good teachers and sack bad ones, a fact you might infer from the following:

*Inevitably, a spectrum of teacher performance will emerge from any such activity and poor as well as exceptionally good performance will be identified. It is not clear how far such judgements might be used also to inform decisions about rewards or measures affecting teachers experiencing difficulties. The effective operation of a national system will require clarity.*

Finally, an extract from a 1985 HMI survey of history teaching, which is poised tantalizingly on the threshold of comprehensibility:

*Although individual historical skills are sequential in that they contain steps of increasing difficulty, teachers know that pupils often leapfrog sometimes quite unpredictably, intermediate processes to demonstrate skills at an unexpectedly advanced level.*

the opportunity to make HMI reports say what you want."

In fairness, it must be said that the content of HMI reports has slowly improved in recent years, particularly during the tenure of Eric Bolton as senior chief inspector. He has made it clear that reports should be clear and straightforward, and the initiative to improve their style and content launched at Sheffield has his blessing.

Indeed, he gave his own inspectors an object lesson in clarity in his annual report, published in February. The document had been compiled by a group of chief inspectors who put up a draft for his consideration, only to find that he took his red pen to the waffle, and sharpened its tone.

The result was a spate of newspaper headlines highlighting his blunt statement that 30 per cent of children were "getting a raw deal" from the state system.

The furor that followed, in which ministers sought to emphasize his other comments that more than two thirds of lessons were "good or better", only served to underline the dangers inherent in being too forthright.

However, parents and all those with the interests of education at heart must hope that the reaction will not inhibit this welcome move towards greater frankness and clarity.

If parent power is to become a reality, HMI's role as the impartial observer of the education scene will be crucial. Obuseness has clearly had its day.

## Art of being a citizen

SCHOOLS are being urged to teach children as young as five about their democratic rights and responsibilities in order to prepare them for a life of "active citizenship". The call comes from the Politics Association, which represents teachers of politics in schools and colleges. The association says that schools should be aware of the need to encourage "citizenship" in all areas of the curriculum.

All children should learn to understand basic concepts such as law, freedom, justice and obligation, as well as studying political institutions, the association says. The fruits of such study, it argues, include developing the ability to distinguish between fact and opinion, to recognize bias and to organize and express ideas.

## What's cooking

THE Central Catering College, near Waterloo Station, central London, was the main training centre for thousands of school dinner ladies in the days of the Inner London Education Authority. Now run by the London Residuary Body, the college has ambitious plans to become the national training centre for the catering industry.

Move are afoot to cash in on the college's expertise in training staff to cook exotic dishes for the capital's ethnically diverse schools by offering courses in Afro-Caribbean cookery and Chinese cuisine.

## Harry's lures

FLASH HARRY, the spiv who haunted St Trinian's, that pearl among fictional girls' schools, has been revived by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities in the



Spiv to the aid of recruiters

hope of enticing graduates into a career in local government.

Complete with tatty hat and demob suit, Harry graces advertisements with the slogan, "Not all sponsorship schemes come with four guarantees."

The guarantees are a £1,500 bursary for the final degree year, eight weeks' paid vacation work, support and guidance in term time, and, of course, a guaranteed town-hall job at the end of it all.

Carl Gilleard, director of the Metropolitan Authorities' Recruitment Agency, which runs the sponsorship scheme, said it would enable local government to compete on an equal basis with private industry for the best graduates.

"We hope this will prove to be an offer no student can refuse," he said, with a nod towards the moustachioed man in the trilby.

## Mature Firsts

PROFESSOR R.F. FOSTER, head of the History Department at Birkbeck College, London University, took exception to the comments of Paul Cattigan, one of his students, in an article on this page on April 9.

Mr Cattigan, who like all undergraduates at Birkbeck is a mature student, complained there had been no formal attempt to "break him in gently" or introduce him to the techniques of essay-writing.

Not so, Professor Foster says, adding: "In fact, this department, like others in Birkbeck, puts much time and effort into study skills. First-year students not only start their course with an induction week devoted to such exposition, but now also follow a Foundation Course throughout their first year intended to address exactly these difficulties."

Describing Mr Cattigan's comments as "both unfounded and unfair", Professor Foster notes that on two occasions in the past five years, the best History Firsts in the university have been achieved by Birkbeck students.

THE TIMES - THE SUNDAY TIMES  
**DIRECTIONS**  
CAREERS & HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

DIRECTIONS, the biggest careers and higher education fair held in Britain, will be bigger than ever this year. Details released this week show that sixth-formers and graduates will be able to talk to representatives of 227 universities, polytechnics, colleges and leading companies when the exhibition opens at Olympia, west London, on June 28.

Among newcomers this year are 15 universities, including Aberdeen, Aston and St Andrew's, six polytechnics and five colleges of higher education.

Exhibiting for the first time are Bosch, Dixons, HMV, Marks & Spencer and Tesco.

As well as the chance to discuss courses and careers with institutions and companies, visitors to Directions will be able to consult impartial experts on their chosen career or field of study.

Directions, sponsored by The Times and The Sunday Times, runs until June 30 in the Grand Hall. Admission is free.

Douglas Broom

## Classic case of rejection

The Government is urging the mature to try a new career in teaching. Annis Garfield tells what happened when she answered the call

Beware of answering the Department of Education's call for more teaching recruits. Encouraged by the recruitment propaganda, I thought my application to a teacher training college was perfectly respectable.

Glossy and expensively produced leaflets prepared for TASC (Teaching as a Career) and the Central Office of Information declared that the need for graduate teachers had never been greater; that there were unlimited opportunities for career development; that mature people should switch to a new career in teaching; that experience of other jobs was of great value; that experience with children and young people would be a huge asset; that teaching was the ideal career for a married woman with children.

So, armed with a Cambridge degree in Classics and a varied range of work experience in the 20

years that have elapsed since the day I graduated, including uncompleted solicitor training, private teaching, 13 years as an O and A level examiner for the Oxford and Cambridge Board, and a great deal of voluntary work with children, this married woman with children aged 12 and 10 registered with the Graduate Teacher Training Registry and applied to take the Post Graduate Certificate of Education.

My application was rejected. And this is the third year that it has been rejected. Nobody, after all, wants me to train to be a teacher, and it is very depressing.

In 1985 it was depressing to be rejected by the Oxford Polytechnic by a woman whose qualifications were considerably less than mine. In 1986 it was so depressing not to be asked for interview anywhere that I gave up applying for two years. But this year, when I have

You needn't wait, Mrs Jones, you're not on the shortlist, man.



heard and read little else but the near national disaster of the teacher shortage, I decided to renew my application to teach.

This year, however, has been the most depressing of all. When I telephoned to ask the admissions tutor at a Midlands college how my first-choice application to his college was progressing, he told me that it was not; he would not be considering my application further.

When I asked why, he said that my degree course was not relevant

to the primary curriculum, that he had many far better qualified applicants than me, that I could compensate for the inappropriate-ness of my Classics degree by a year's hands-on experience in a primary school.

I pointed out that without a teaching qualification I was not allowed to teach in a primary school. He explained that he had meant experience as a playground assistant or dinner lady.

It must be said that I was affronted to be told that a year as a

playground attendant or a dinner lady might compensate for the inadequacies of my Cambridge Classics degree.

He also said that a degree in craft would have been more appropriate than one in Classics. Craft, indeed. As if you could read craft at Cambridge.

But on to the next rejection. This was from a university which at least summoned me for an interview. This being only the second interview in three years of applications, it must be counted a triumph in itself.

But everything I said or did was wrong; not wrong by normal standards, but wrong by those alternative standards to which anyone hoping for acceptance in teacher training must conform.

My first mistake was to brush my hair and wear a sober dress. The correct thing would have been fashionably weird hair and denim. The second was to mistake the English tutor for the caretaker, as he was not wearing denim I assumed he was not on the academic side and, being in ill-fitting, well-slept-in clothes, that he must be from maintenance.

The other interviewer was a man from Education, wearing the obligatory jeans and denim jacket over a very open-necked shirt revealing gold chains. His hair cascaded down the sides of his head in luxuriant waves but was short and spiky on top.

The English tutor was discussing the Oxford and Cambridge examination boards with me. The man from Education glowered sulkily for some time and then

Gilbert Jessup on moves to end the traditional divide between education and training

## The rot at the apple's core

Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) to propose a list of core skills that could be incorporated into A/AS levels, as well as more generally in further education.

The essence of core skills is transferability: they are skills which can be applied to different circumstances. The core now proposed by the NCC consists of six skills which are generally agreed to be essential, vital for life and work in the next century.

They are problem solving, communication, personal skills (defined as self-awareness, independence and the ability to get on with others), numeracy, information technology, and modern languages.

Of course, these are already present in varying degrees within A/AS levels, but the idea is to make them explicit. It will be necessary to identify more clearly just where these skills are developed within subjects, so that students can recognize their value and potential use elsewhere. (That pupils should find it easier to relate what and how they learn at school to their experiences in the rest of life should be one of the major benefits.)

This is where the NCVQ comes in. It has been developing a systematic framework of qualifications covering all types of employment and all occupational levels. It is also identifying core

skills in employment, and has been exploring with the NCC the possibility of identifying core skills which are common to both A/AS levels and National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs).

The NCVQ report on core skills, published last week, fully supports the NCC's recommendations, but goes somewhat further in spelling out how they can be specified both in A/AS levels and in NVQs. It also emphasizes that a joint development programme, involving the NCC, the Schools Examination and Assessment Council and NCVQ, will be necessary. The idea is to create a framework of core skills which would stand separate from A/AS

levels, NVQs and any other qualifications, but within which these skills could be assessed, and recorded as credits in any qualification system.

Both the NCC and NCVQ identify the need for a single record of achievement for use in schools and vocational training to record achievement in core skills. This could take the form of an extended version of the National Record of Vocational Achievement, which NCVQ introduced nearly two years ago. It could be the beginning of a genuinely common national record, accommodating schools' records of achievement, National Curriculum attainments, core skills and

NVQ units and qualifications. The need for such a vehicle to link school to further education and continuing learning has been widely recognized in recent years.

The core skill initiative and the introduction of a National Record could do much to start building bridges between our education and training systems, which have remained divided for too long.

Such a division is particularly unhelpful at a time when there is a general feeling that we must put far more effort into raising the standards of education and training, and the competence of the workforce in the UK, if we are to catch up and then keep pace with international competition.

Young people have the right to a more coherent provision of learning opportunities. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity.

The author is the director of research, development and information at the National Council for Vocational Qualifications.



## PREVIEW

TODAY Art & Auctions • TUESDAY Theatre & Cabaret • WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz & World Music • THURSDAY Opera, Dance & Books • FRIDAY Classical Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

### ART EXHIBITIONS

David Lee

LONDON

**GEORGE FULLARD (1923-1973):** Figure paintings and collages by a neglected sculptor who was among the first British artists to incorporate found objects into his work. Redfern Gallery, 20 Cork Street, London W1 (01-734 1732). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am-12.30pm, free, until June 1. From Tues.

**WILLIAM BROOKER (1918-1983):** Deceptively simple and ordered still-life paintings and drawings. Austri/Desmond Fine Art, Pied Bull Yard, WC2 (01-833 3321). Mon-Sat, 10.30am-6.30pm, Sat 10am-2.30pm, free, until May 24. From Tues.

**POLITICAL POSTERS FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND THE USSR:** Recent graphics from the perestroika and new democracy movements. Victoria & Albert Museum, Exhibition Road, SW7 (01-938 8500). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2.30-5.30pm, free, until July 1. From Wed.

**GOYA'S MAJAS:** The Naked and Clothed Majas, two of Goya's most striking paintings which show versions of the same woman in the same pose, are on temporary loan from the Prado in Madrid. An opportunity not to be missed. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (01-833 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2pm-6pm, free, until July 1. From Wed.

**PHILIP DAVIES:** Recent figurative paintings. Christopher Hull Gallery, 17 Motcomb Street, SW1 (01-235 0500). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, until May 26. From Wed.

**RITUALS:** Paintings 1948-68 which incorporate hand prints, by Tony Stubbings (1921-1993), who recently featured in a new acquisitions show at the Tate. England & Co, 14 Needham Road, W1 (01-221 0417). Tues-Sat, 11am-6pm, free, until June 1. From Thurs.

**JIRI KOLAR:** Collages and pictures poems by a Czech dissident artist, which makes free use of illustrations of famous paintings. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (01-833 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2pm-6pm, free, until May 26. From Wed.

**SIR EDUARDO PAOLOZZI:** (See picture below right). The Scottish painter, below right. The Scottish Gallery, 20 Cork Street, W1 (01-237 2121). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, free, until May 26. From Wed.

**BETWEEN DIMENSIONS:** Works by eight abstract artists, including Michael Kohn and Alan Johnston, selected by critic Mel Gooding. Curwen Gallery, 4 Windmill Street, W1 (01-836 1459). Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, Sat, 10.30am-1pm, free, until June 2. From Fri.

### CONTINUING

**LUCIAN FREUD, FRANK AUERBACH, RICHARD DEACON:** Painting and sculpture from the largest British private collection. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (01-833 3321). Fri-Sat, midday-6pm, free, until November.

**IN OUR TIME:** Photographs by Magnum agency photographers, Carter-Brosnan, Cape, Seidemann, etc. Hayward Gallery, South Bank Centre, SE1 (01-261 0127). Daily, 10am-6pm, 24 (concs), until May 6.

**VIGNELLI:** An exhibition of graphics, products and furniture design. Royal College of Art (Henry Moore Gallery), Kensington Gore, SW7 (01-584 5320). Daily, 10am-6pm, free, until May 12.

**FAKE THE ART OF DECEPTION:** Six hundred fakes and originals from all periods, including Van Meegeren's infamous 'Vermeers'.

## Under the hammer



Art glass has been increasingly popular for some time at auction particularly Daum, Lalique and Tiffany. They have been attracting mega-bucks in New York and Gallé will be the centre of attention when the action moves to Sotheby's in London on Wednesday. There are 64 items by a total of 169 pieces of glass in a sale of applied arts from 1880. Special attention will be focused on a bulbous little vase 15.5 centimetres high engraved with his signature and marked and dated 1894 (pictured here). It is carved with a large moth, a dragonfly and a gnat. The glass ranges in colour from a milky caramel through to tones of deep amber with hints of coloured enamels used to emphasize the details of the carving. It is considered a perfect example of his skill and believed to have come from Gallé's own collection; the estimate reflects this at £80,000-£120,000. Another outstanding vase by him is internally decorated in muted greens with a delicate design of elongated mushrooms (£30,000-£50,000). Daum and Lalique are well represented in the sale with 27 and 42 pieces respectively. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 8080). Viewing: today, tomorrow, 9am-4.30pm. Sale: Wed, 10.30am-2.30pm.

British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (01-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, 24 (concs), until September 2.

**PAINTING IN FOCUS:** The recent acquisition, Winter Landscape, by German Romantic painter, Caspar David Friedrich (1774-1840) comes under scholarly scrutiny. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (01-833 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2pm-6pm, free, until May 26.

**SYDNEY HARPLEY RA:** Popular figurative sculpture of lounging beauties. Chris Beetles Gallery, 8 Ryder Street, SW1 (01-839 7551). Daily, 10am-5.30pm, free, until May 4.

**MODERN MASTERS FROM THE GELMAN COLLECTION:** An astonishing array of 81 important modern paintings by all the greats. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (01-629 7438). Daily, 10am-6pm, 22.50, until July 15.

**JOHN WARD RA:** Recent paintings and drawings by a portraitist whose preferred subject is beautiful women. Jeremy Maas Gallery, 15a Clifford Street, W1 (01-734 2302). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, free, until May 11. From Tues. A retrospective of Ward's work is at Agnew's, 43 Old Bond Street, W1 (01-629 6176). Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm, free, until May 24.

**ART FROM THE FRONTLINE:** Recent art from the frontlines of Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Mozambique. Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove (041 367 3929). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 1-5pm, free, until June 3. From Tues.

**CAMILLE PISSARRO (1831-1903):** A manipulative selection of over 50 paintings and drawings by the French impressionist which attempts to show how Pissarro's art was informed by contemporary politics and social developments.

## AUCTIONS, SALES

John Shaw

### LONDON

**STERLING STUFF:** Set of six George II silver wall sconces by Peter Archambold, London 1730, sold by a member of a foreign royal family (£200,000-£300,000) — originally from Dunham Massey, Cheshire. The Gibraltar Cup (£25,000-£45,000) and a rare pair of Nicholas Sprimont candlesticks, London 1746 (£20,000-£30,000), are also highlights in this major silver sale. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, W1 (01-493 8080). Viewing: today, tomorrow and Wed, 9am-4.30pm. Sale: Thurs, 11am.

**EARLY AND FINE:** Contrasting furniture sales with early and continental at Christie's, including a Swiss walnut draw table (£7,000-£10,000), and fine furniture at Sotheby's. Also several small secretaire bookcases from £5,000-£10,000. Christie's, King Street, St James's, SW1 (01-839 9060). Viewing: today, tomorrow, 9am-4.30pm, Wed, 9am-4.30pm. Sale: Thurs, 11am.

**ARCTIC ADVENTURE:** Thomas Sewall Robins's marine picture of the expedition ship HMS Assistance held in the Arctic ice (1857). An interesting historical picture from the point of view of maritime history as this ship returned from the expedition which brought back to England the first Eskimo to set foot on British soil. He later became a student at St Augustine's Anglican Missionary College, Canterbury. Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (01-629 6802). Sale: tomorrow, 11am.

**TRIBAL RELICS:** Huge tribal art collection from Africa and India, including Abyssinian chief's silver-banded head shield captured during the war of 1887 (£150-£200). Acquired by Reubens, collector and dealer. Bonhams, 65-69 Lots Road, SW10 (01-351 7111). Viewing: today, 8.45am-7pm.

**Over the years Sir Eduardo Paolozzi has kept his work simultaneously innovative in form and yet popular and accessible. From his decorative abstract murals in Tottenham Court Road underground station, which are stylistically somewhere between a wiring diagram and a ludo board, to his robotic self-portrait sculpture lurking unsuspected in a pavement alcove on High Holborn, there is the same combination of fun and sophistication. Fitted here is his bronze on a wood base entitled "Walk Man Study" (1984). A small retrospective of his sculpture, drawings and prints, featuring many pieces in which man and his inventions are spliced together in unlikely configurations, opens on Wednesday at The Scottish Gallery. (See London listings.)**

**OUTSIDE LONDON**

**ART FROM THE FRONTLINE:** Recent art from the frontlines of Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Mozambique. Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove (041 367 3929). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 1-5pm, free, until June 3. From Tues.

**CAMILLE PISSARRO (1831-1903):** A manipulative selection of over 50 paintings and drawings by the French impressionist which attempts to show how Pissarro's art was informed by contemporary politics and social developments.

**THE OTHER STORY:** Post-war books by British artists of Asian and African descent, many of which testify to the experience of being black in a predominantly white society. City Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester (0161 236 5244). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun 2-4pm, free, until June 10. From Sat.

**JOHN BELLANY:** Paintings, drawings and watercolours by a major Scottish figurative artist, all of them completed since the artist's recovery from a liver transplant last year. Compass Gallery, 178 Regent Street, Glasgow (041 221 6370). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, free, until May 31. From Sat.

**SCULPTURE GARDEN:** A parkland setting for works by Reg Butler, Frank Heworth, Peter Randall-Page and others. Roche Court, East Wiltshire, Salisbury (01235 5844). Sat-Sun, 11am-5pm, free, until September. From Sat.

**DECORATIVE:** Charles Rennie Mackintosh — a fine book from the Ingram Store Tea Rooms (£2,000-£3,000), and stained and leaded windows by the Glasgow School are among 20th-century decorative arts. Christie's, 156-158 Regent Street, Glasgow (041 332 8134). Viewing: today, 10am-7pm, Tues and Wed, 10am-5pm. Sale: Thurs, 11am.

**DAMBUSTERS:** A war-time autograph album from RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire, with the signatures of Guy Gibson, Stannan, Melby and others who took part in the Dambusters raid in May, 1943. Evocative souvenir of a classic operation (£400-£500). Venet-Smith Auctions, 11 Nottingham Road, Gotham, Nottingham (0302 80641). Sale: Thurs, 11am, The Showroom Business Centre, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham.

**PAINTINGS AND SILVER:** Cadell, Popple, McTaggart and George Leslie Hunter among the pictures, and 108 lots of Scottish and other European silver in this traditional annual event at Hopetoun House near Edinburgh. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, W1 (01-493 8080). Viewing: today, 10am-6pm (silver only), Tues, 9am-12 noon. Sale: Tues, 10am-6pm, pictures 6pm. Viewing and sales on premises.

**COUNTRY LIFE:** The late Lady Brecknock's house contents sold on the premises at Wharfedale Priory, near Andover, Hampshire. Reasonably estimated objects everywhere from furniture to garden effects, but bid carefully. Sotheby's, Summers Place, Billingshurst, West Sussex (0403 783533). Viewing: on the premises today, 10am-5pm. Catalogue admission: £10. Sale: Wed, 2pm.

**TENNANTS TREASURES:** George III period by Henry Epworth Allen (1894-1958), a Sheffield artist who designed a wide public audience (est £1,500-£2,000). Phillips, Hepper House, East Parade, Leeds 1 (0532 448011). Viewing: today, tomorrow, 10am-4pm. Sale: Wed, 11am.

**SHEFFIELD STAR:** Look for 35 pieces by Henry Epworth Allen (1894-1958), a Sheffield artist who designed a wide public audience (est £1,500-£2,000). Phillips, Hepper House, East Parade, Leeds 1 (0532 448011). Viewing: today, tomorrow, 10am-4pm. Sale: Wed, 11am.

Compiled by Kari Knight  
• Items for inclusion should be sent at least 10 days before publication to Street, London E1 6XN

### CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated) on release across the country.

#### NEW RELEASES

**COLD FEET (15):** Wayward comedy-drama about three petty criminals in Montreal, co-written by novelist Tom McGuane with Tom Weir. Keith Carradine, Sally Kirkland. Directed by co-director Robert Altman. ICA Cinema (01-430 3647).

**THE KRAVYS (18):** Brooding, bloody drama about the rise and fall of the East End gangster from writer-director Peter Medak. Directed in sepia tones. Peter Medak directs an intriguingly chosen cast: Gary and Martin Kemp, Bill Whitelaw. Camden Parkway (01-257 7034) Glasgow Cinema (01-552 5585) Odessa Cinema (01-832 8445) Swire Cinema (01-722 8820) West End (01-430 5262/615) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**MONSIEUR HIRE (15):** Intense, stylish version of Simon novel about a bachelor's dark obsession with his neighbour, a rising achievement by director Pierre Lescage, previously known for comedies. With Michel Blanc and Sandrine Bonnaire. ICA Cinema (01-430 3647).

**NEXT OF KIN (15):** A Kentucky clan fights the Mafia. Potboiling Patrick Swartz vehicle, partly saved by John Travolta's action, with Liam Neeson, Adam Baldwin. Cannon Cinema (01-430 3647) Odessa Cinema (01-430 3647) Warner West End (01-430 3647) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**MACABE AND MRS MILLER (18):** Revival of Robert Altman's modest comedy of a couple (Warren Beatty) establishing a bar in a mining town. With Julie Christie. Camden Plaza (01-430 3647).

**MY LEFT FOOT (15):** The Christy Brown story, uplifting, funny, marvellously acted, with Oscar winners Daniel Day-Lewis and Brenda Fricker. Odessa Cinema (01-832 8445) Swire Cinema (01-722 8820) West End (01-430 5262/615) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**THE RESCUERS (15):** Disney cartoon from 1977, unashamedly beautiful old-fashioned animation and contemporary urban setting. Cannon Cinema (01-430 3647) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**ROGER AND ME (15):** Michael Moore's documentary about the closure of a car factory closes on the director's home town. Cannon Cinema (01-430 3647) Odessa Cinema (01-832 8445) Swire Cinema (01-722 8820) West End (01-430 5262/615) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**SANTA SANGRE (18):** Alejandro Jodorowsky's epic, disturbing, blood-soaked fantasy set in a travelling circus. Metro (01-437 0571) Gaiety (01-732 4043).

**SEA OF LOVE (18):** Superior thriller with electricity. A Psycho stare as a New York cop who becomes erotically involved with a murder suspect (Ethan Phillips). Directed by Harold Becker. Cannon Cinema (01-430 3647) Plaza (01-437 8939).

**SHOCKER (18):** Wes Craven's film, with Michael Pegg as the maddest spirit of an escaped mental patient. Cannon Cinema (01-430 3647) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**A SHORT FILM ABOUT LOVE (18):** Krzysztof Kieslowski's powerful and sensitive tale of love and sex. Second in the series based on the novel. Commandments. Premiere (01-430 4470) Rencor (01-437 8932).

**SOCIETY (18):** Canadian, zombie-filled horror yarn from Brian Yusef, producer of From Beyond. Prince Charles (01-437 8181).

**SCOTT BEVERLY HILLS (18):** Tense comedy about a Beverly Hills wife leaving a troop. Shelley Long. Odessa Cinema (01-832 8445) Swire Cinema (01-722 8820) West End (01-430 5262/615) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**TROPIC BELLE FOUR TOE (18):** Gervais. Desperate love between the wife and the husband. Directed by Michael Moore. Cannon Cinema (01-430 3647) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**UNCLE BUCK (12):** Funny comedy by John Cusack as a father who takes care of his brother's children. Cannon Cinema (01-430 3647) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS (15):** Highly diverting farce between a blonde agent (Michelle Pfeiffer) and two cocked parents (Jeff and Beau Bridges). Cannon Cinema (01-430 3647) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**GLORY (15):** Edward Zwick's impassioned salute to the black Americans who fought in the Civil War, powerful. Cannon Cinema (01-430 3647) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**HENRY V (15):** Visually dazzling version of Shakespeare's play from underdog Kenneth Branagh, who directs and stars. With Paul Scofield, Emma Thompson, Judi Dench. Curzon Phoenix (01-240 8861).

**HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KIDS (10):** Marvellous children battle through their parents' to safety. Engaging special-effects romp. Cannon Cinema (01-430 3647) Whiteleys (01-732 3303/3324).

**PROBABLY NOT 1118 (15):** Comedy about a man who is a doctor. Charles Grodin. Curzon Phoenix (01-240 8861).

**KING (15):** "Charles Grodin's best performance since 'The 400 Blows'." Charles Grodin. Curzon Phoenix (01-240 8861).

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### CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2165

**ACROSS**

- 1 Dutch potato spirit (8)
- 5 Highland dress (4)
- 9 Bank clerk (7)
- 10 Barnage balloon (5)
- 11 Making infernal (13)
- 12 Recruit (5)
- 15 Steersman (5)
- 17 Command withdrawal (5,1,7)
- 21 Calabash (5)
- 22 Principled (7)
- 23 Scale (4)
- 24 Ninepins (8)

**DOWN**

- 1 Foot cloths (5)
- 2 Rapidity (5)
- 3 Cropping up (7)
- 4 Henry VII throne predecessor (6,7)
- 6 Inaugural (7)
- 7 Head crest (3,4)
- 8 New Test "father" (4)
- 12 Pinnacle (3)
- 13 Cadger (7)
- 14 Defended outpost (7)
- 15 Surpass (5)
- 16 Egg cells (3)
- 18 Uncivil (4)
- 19 Surpass (5)
- 20 Anklebone (5)

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

#### MUSCADEEN

(a) A moderate French revolutionary, usually from the mid-18th century, from the French for a musk-confite. Byron: "Clockwork of London Muscadens of Paris".

(b) Of the nature of a metaphor, from Greek *metaphorikos*, descriptive. "That which he hath is metaphorical, not by way of comparison or appropriation." (A.Z.O.T.)

(c) The name given by Lewis, from its inability to support life, to the gas now known as nitrogen, from the Greek *nitron* = private + *genesis* = to be. "A gas which elastic form constitutes phosphogelated gas."

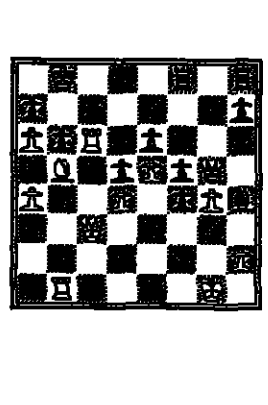
#### SITKIE

(a) In-laws who are formally committed to help during crises, from the Greek *synteknikos* = to be with. "A gas which elastic form constitutes phosphogelated gas."

### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Chess Correspondent



In today's position from the game Biaty (White) — Ruxton (Black), Oakham Junior International 1990, can you see how White can break through on the queen-side? Solution in tomorrow's Times.

### ENTERTAINMENTS

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## BUSINESS

SECTION 2

MONDAY APRIL 30 1990

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-30

● SPORT 33-40

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar

1.8365 (+0.0015)

W German mark

2.7427 (-0.0189)

Exchange index

88.7 (-0.5)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1658.7 (-53.9)

FT-SE 100

2106.6 (-80.5)

USM (Datastream)

132.39 (-5.36)

RHM sales  
will fill  
coffers  
to £300m

By Colin Campbell

RANKS Hovis McDougall is finalising another round of non-core asset sales that will increase to £300 million the group's war chest with which to attack Europe.

RHM, in which Sir James Goldsmith, through his Sunningdale investment group, holds 29.9 per cent, recently sold its 70 per cent stake in Cerebos Pacific for £186 million, and confirms other asset sales are likely to follow.

It denies, however, that Sir James's decision to abandon Hovis's bid for BAT has "concentrated RHM's mind". It insists it has long been policy to concentrate on basic flour-bread-and-cake operations, and, by implication, to sell other selected interests.

It has been suggested that now Sir James has corporate time free, he will turn his attention to RHM — especially since the carrying costs of his original 400p-a-share investment, currently outweigh the returns.

RHM shares were traded at 375p on Friday, at which level Sir James will be showing a 6.25 per cent "paper loss".

RHM said in March the proceeds from Cerebos would reduce its pro forma gearing to less than 10 per cent, and the income would provide additional resources to develop in mainland Europe, Britain and the US. It added: "Although there are no immediate plans for substantial acquisitions in either of these regions, expansion in Europe is one of RHM's principal objectives."

The group intends, all things being equal, to close its current financial year, ending early September, with borrowings of about £50 million compared with shareholders' funds of roughly £300 million.

Non-core divisions would include chocolate, breakfast cereals, pasta and mushrooms, although no individual asset will be identified as being up for sale until employees have been told.

Negotiations on various asset sales are, however, understood to have reached a delicate stage.

SIB issues  
investment  
guidelinesBy Lindsay Cook  
Family Money Editor

THE Securities and Investments Board celebrates its second anniversary today and introduces 10 principles for the conduct of investment business.

The board has investigated 330 complaints of unauthorised trading, instigated 40 statutory investigations, and petitioned for and obtained compulsory winding-up orders in 11 cases. The investors' compensation scheme has paid out more than £3.3 million to 968 investors.

The 10 principles are intended to make investor protection comprehensible to all involved.

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia	20.25	20.25
Canada	20.25	20.25
Denmark	10.88	10.88
France	6.55	6.55
Germany	2.37	2.37
Italy	12.57	12.57
Japan	27.18	27.18
Netherlands	27.18	27.18
Portugal	20.25	20.25
Spain	16.50	16.50
Sweden	10.88	10.88
Switzerland	2.37	2.37
Thailand	49.15	49.15
USA	1.75	1.75
West Germany	27.18	27.18

Source: Bank of England. Rates for travel only, as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Discount rates apply to bank deposits.

BT in \$550m  
paper loss on  
McCaw stake

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

BRITISH Telecom is showing a \$550 million paper loss on one of its most strategic US investments, a 20 per cent stake in McCaw Cellular Communications, America's biggest mobile telephone operator.

McCaw's shares have sunk to a new low for the year of \$25.25, valuing BT's stake at \$902 million against the \$1.45 billion it has ploughed into the US over the counter company in 15 months.

British Telecom's investment is the equivalent of nearly 15p for each of its 6.05 billion shares in issue. Because of McCaw's two-tier voting structure, BT has only 5.36 per cent of the votes.

As McCaw's shares fell further last week, a US business magazine survey disclosed that Mr Craig O. McCaw, the company's founder, chairman and chief executive, who is aged 40, earned a salary, bonuses and share options worth \$53.9 million last year.

BT has just paid him \$35 million as part of a deal to maintain its investment at 20 per cent in what had been expected to be America's fastest growing industry.

Papers filed with the SEC show the payment as part of a \$110 million deal this month in which the four McCaw brothers were paid \$60 million for selling BT 1.876 million of their A shares. BT bought a further 1.56 million from the company itself.

The deal was struck at \$31.98 a share, compared with \$41.50 per share BT paid for its original 32.4 million stake on January 19, 1989. BT is

already showing a \$25.67 million paper loss on its most recent purchase and a total loss of \$552 million.

In less than a year McCaw's shares fell from a peak of \$47.50. BT topped up its stake as a result of McCaw's agreed \$3.4 billion bid for a controlling stake in LIN Broadcasting, a rival New York mobile telephone company.

The combined companies control more than half the five main US mobile telephone markets, with 45 per cent of New York and 45 per cent of Los Angeles. In the documents released with the LIN takeover, McCaw gave a warning that losses will increase and may exceed \$1 billion in some years. It has made losses since 1984 which last year narrowed to \$288.5 million on turnover of \$504 million.

The company is also heavily borrowed. It raised almost \$4 billion for the LIN deal and has \$1.6 billion in six junk bond issues which have recently been put on the amber alert list by the independent Bond Investors Association.

Mr Richard Lehmann, the association president, said: "We feel if things get any worse in the economy these bonds could be pretty good candidates for default."

Until recently, analysts had been optimistic about the mobile telephones market. McCaw's deal with LIN valued potential customers — known as Pops — at about \$250 each. But a more recent deal saw values fall to \$189.

Last May, Mr John W. Stanton, McCaw's vice chairman, sold more than 40 per cent of his shares close to the top. He

raised \$3.4 million selling 80,000 shares at between \$43.14 and \$43.38 for what he described as personal reasons. Last year's salaries and long-term payments to three McCaw directors have produced sharp controversy. *Business Week/Standard & Poor's* annual US pay survey, shows Mr Craig McCaw, the president Mr Wayne Perry and the vice president Mr Rufus W. Lumry, together earned \$92.7 million in pay, bonuses and options.

British Telecom said that whatever the short-term price performance of McCaw shares, BT's attitude towards McCaw now and when it first made its investment in 1989 is that its holding will be a "long-term investment."

It declined to comment on whether it is concerned about the paper loss on its investment, but has no intention of pulling out of McCaw.

● BUENOS AIRES Cable and Wireless is among seven international consortia qualified to bid for ENTel, the state telecommunications company to be privatized in October (Reuters reports).

The others are: Telefonos de Espana, STEI of Italy, GTE Corporation, Bell Atlantic and Nynex Corporation of the US and France Cable et Radio. Each must offer at least \$214 million cash, \$380 million financed over six years and \$3.5 billion in Argentine foreign debt certificates. ENTel has 2.9 million lines and employs 48,000.

● Automated Security (Holdings), the electronic security group, has concluded an agreement with Mercury Callpoint to develop telepoints.

BHP wants Elders and  
Harlin boards to split

From David Tweed, Sydney

BHP, the Australian resource group with an Aus\$850 million investment in Elders, is pushing for a split of the boards of Elders and Harlin Holdings, suggesting that the boards of Harlin and Elders be split to ensure "a separation between the decision-making process in Harlin and Elders."

Harlin is owned by Mr John Elliott and key Elders executives. A move to separate the boards would virtually end Mr Elliott's dominance of Elders.

The catalyst for BHP's "suggestion" was the referral on Friday of the Elders pub-breweries deal with Grand Metropolitan to the Monop-

olies and Mergers Commission. The deal was a crucial leg in the proposed reconstruction of Elders, which, according to its board, would streamline it into two separate operations — brewing and agribusiness — with other interests sold and "surplus proceeds" distributed to shareholders as a capital return, estimated to be about Aus\$2.2 billion or Aus\$1.4 billion.

The move would allow Harlin, which owns 55 per cent of Elders, to reduce its crippling Aus\$3 billion debt burden.

A source close to BHP said yesterday: "Perceptions are

crucial here. We are having discussions with Harlin (in our role as a lender) and we think the value of Elders shares would increase if there were a separation between the decision-making process in Harlin and Elders."

Elders shares have fallen 33 per cent from Aus\$2.40 at the beginning of the year to Aus\$1.74 in Australia on Friday.

After the referral, they sank to Aus\$1.66 in London. Elders itself is in a relatively strong position financially, with net debt of only Aus\$200 million to Aus\$300 million.

The problem lies with Harlin, left with Aus\$3 billion of debt on its 55 per cent shareholding in Elders after being pressurized into making a \$3-a-share bid last year.

At present prices, buying the extra shares has resulted in a book loss to Harlin of more than Aus\$700 million. With interest holding costs, the loss would be almost Aus\$1 billion. The debt was financed partly by BHP, which has more than Aus\$850 million in Harlin preference shares.

Harlin urgently needs the cash that would have been coming from the reconstruction. Its only assets — shares and options in Elders — have a market value of about Aus\$2.1 billion to Aus\$2.2 billion, so it is about Aus\$800 million short of its debt.

One suggested solution would be to press Harlin to seek a buyer for its controlling stake in Elders, perhaps by tender. Another would be the sale of some of Elders's assets, such as its international brewing interests.

Cuts bring sale of  
UK finance firm

By Our City Staff

ELDERS Finance Group, in a further contraction of operations and in line with the slimming down process of its Elders/DXL parent, is selling its Birmingham-based trade finance company, Elders Keep, for about £4 million.

The buyer is the specialist merchant bank Riggs AP Bank — the British subsidiary of the \$7.3 billion asset-backed Riggs National Bank of Washington DC — which says that the purchase is its first corporate acquisition since its formation in London 70 years ago.

Mr Peter Lucas, finance director (European region) of Elders Finance, said that Elders Keep had been in the Elders group for six years and had

gross assets of £25 million. "The sale is part of the group's policy of trimming back its balance sheet from Aus\$6 billion to Aus\$2 billion," he said.

Elders Keep was established in 1920 and generates an annual pre-tax income of £1.5 million from confirming payments for the shipment of goods between trading countries, usually outside the UK.

Elders Keep will be re-named Riggs Keep. Riggs AP has a strong Portuguese client base and is generally involved in trade and property finance. It has also advised in Third Market flotations and it operates a development capital fund.

## Virgin drums up new Japan deal

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Mr Richard Branson, head of the Virgin music and airlines group, has made his second overture to Japan since last autumn with plans for a joint venture with Marui, a leading Japanese department store chain that has a big following among wealthy young shoppers.

Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Japan's leading financial daily, said Virgin and Marui would initially join forces in opening large music and video stores and in tailoring travel packages to take advantage of Virgin Airlines' routes around the world.

Marui believes Virgin's management expertise will help it attract more shoppers to its stores, both for compact discs and videos and for travel business.

Virgin sees an eager market for its brand of music megastores in a country where foreign companies find it virtually impossible to open large shops. This is because of Japan's dizzy land prices and because of opposition from local operators whose object is to seeing their more expensive personal service undermined by cut-price supermarket-style selling.

Virgin is also keen to tap the booming market among wealthy Japanese for exotic holidays abroad.

The newspaper said in its Saturday evening edition that officials from Virgin would visit Japan soon, possibly in early May after this week's string of bank holidays is out of the way, to sign a deal with Marui.

The first step in the partnership will be the opening this autumn of a music megastore in Marui's huge department store in Shinjuku, a busy shopping district in central Tokyo. A second megastore will follow in Marui's branch in Shibuya, another fashionable haunt for Tokyo shoppers. Independent stores will then be opened in Tokyo and Osaka if opposition from small shopkeepers can be overcome.

Last October Mr Branson, seeking fresh cash for Virgin after its unhappy experiences as a publicly quoted company, sold a 25 per cent stake in Virgin Music to Fujisankei Communications, one of Japan's biggest and most ambitious media empires with interests stretching from newspapers and television to museums. Fujisankei hopes its links with Virgin will give it a higher international profile.



Two for a hole-in-one: Graham (left) and Robert Bourne join the golfing drive

## Ex-Lands swings a deal

EX-LANDS, the mining company turned Saatchi investment vehicle, has signed an agreement giving it first refusal on golf course developments conceived by International Management Group (Matthew Bond writes).

The deal is seen as a crucial breakthrough for brothers Graham and Robert Bourne, who last month bought half the 29.9 per cent Ex-Lands stake owned by Charles and Maurice Saatchi, and who have become the company's joint chief executives.

IMG's power in drawing tournaments and players is seen as influential in determining the success of golfing projects. A golf and tennis complex in central France should be the first of several Ex-Lands developments. The company is looking at others in West Germany and Ireland.

The French project is on 400 acres of land, owned by Perrier, at Vichy. In return for Perrier's large investment in the spa town, the municipal authorities have granted planning consent for 400 houses and a 27-hole complex. Ex-Lands is likely to buy a 25 per cent stake in the project, owned by a consortium of Perrier, IMG and IMG clients.

Golf development is seen as an over-heated market. Mr Robert Bourne said: "Every farmer in the country seems to have put in a planning application for a golf course."

However, the Bournes have a track record of making money in over-heated markets. A year ago, Local London, their business centre and property trading group, brought by them to the USM in 1986 with net assets of £265,000, was taken over by Priest Mariani

for £111 million. That deal is seen by some as the top of the property market.

The Bournes fared just as well with London House, their new private company. They carried on dealing, and in the next few months realized profits of more than £14 million. Their deals included buying the John Lewis London warehouse for £20 million and selling it on only a few weeks later, prior to completion, for £30 million to Swedish investors. "That, to us, signalled the top of the market," Mr Robert Bourne said.

The Bournes' interest in golf coincided with the collapse of the property dealing market last September. It was Mr Robert Bourne's contact with IMG — for which he worked after qualifying as an accountant — that brought them the Vichy project.

Receiver to  
value R&T  
schemes

By Our City Staff

A clearer picture of the full liabilities of Rush & Tompkins, the collapsed property developer, should emerge this week, as Touche Ross staff report their findings from weekend visits to the company's development sites. Touche Ross was appointed receiver last week by Lloyds Bank, R&T's main banker.

Of R&T's 40 or so joint ventures, the biggest is the 350,000 sq ft retail scheme in Southampton, Merseyside, where the company is in partnership with Sibel, Mr Mike Birchall's private group, and Hochief, the West German group which has a 22.7 per cent holding in R&T.

A second big joint venture partner is Waterglade, the quoted developer, which was building a 330,000 sq ft Hamburg office complex with R&T at a cost of £45 million.

Mr Ronald Nathan, Waterglade's chief executive, said he will be seeking an urgent meeting with the receiver to find out how quickly R&T's stake reverts to Waterglade.

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TEMPUS

# No bid sunshine to lift Asda gloom

ASDA today closes the books on the year to April 1990, a period that has ended with the shares standing at their lowest for seven years. The group is expected to report pre-tax profits of £180 million against £247 million last time, according to Morgan Stanley. Recovery is expected to be slow, with profits of £200 million forecast for the year to April 1991.

The patience of shareholders has been sorely tried and they may seek to console themselves with hopes of a bid. The group's 5.2 per cent shareholders, the Canadian Betsberg brothers, are known to have approached Mr David Fisher of the Ashley group to lead a potential break-up bid, and at least one institutional shareholder was calling last year for the resignation of Asda's chief executive, Mr John Hardman.

But even at their current level of 92p there is not a great deal to tempt a break-up bidder. According to BZW in its latest *Value Investor*, it would be uneconomical, taking a five-year view, for a leverage buyout team to pay more than 115p to 120p a share. At 120p the rate of return for any bidder would be 18.2 per cent over a five-year period.

A bidder would have to grapple with Asda's £900 million of debt, which looks set to rise to more than £1 billion this year. Other off-putting

factors include the soggy property market, which makes property disposals less attractive, a 25 per cent stake in MFI and Asda's strategy of combining food and non-food retailing. Allied Carpets is expected to have made no profit in the year just ended and the short-term outlook for the furniture market remains gloomy.

Asda is the only large food retailer making a virtue out of selling non-food in its stores. Tesco has been pulling out of non-food over the years and has felt the benefits. Mr George Davies's design skills have given the Asda clothing operations a boost, although clothing results for the year just ended are expected to be down on last time.

Assuming profits of £180 million for the year just ended, the shares are trading on a p/e ratio of just over nine, cheap, but not that cheap. Long-term holders of the shares should hold on a little longer and sell into any rally. For the rest there is no rush to buy.

## SD-Scicon

IT IS now a month since the computer systems and software group SD-Scicon was put "into play" via a footloose 25 per cent stake held by British Aerospace. So far, the silence is deafening.

With every penny SD-Scicon shares fall the more



Hard task ahead: John Hardman, Asda chief executive

tempting a target the company becomes. On Friday the shares shed a further 5p, slipping to 72p against a 1990 high of 82p.

The standstill agreement between the two companies ended on March 25, since when BAE has neither purchased more stock nor had an acceptable bid for its own shares. The software industry though, is in no doubt that BAE is a seller and that SD-Scicon is a highly prized strategic asset in Europe's computer services business.

Currently, earnings are depressed by the cost of merging both the old Systems Design-

ers and Scicon businesses. Mr Philip Swinstead, group chairman, feels that the worst is over and that an 8 per cent return on turnover is possible in the not too distant future. That indicates profits well in excess of £20 million compared with a 1989 total of £7.2 million, ravaged by restructuring costs and exceptional items.

The chairman's view is supported by independent forecasts from the brokers James Capel and County Natwest WoodMac, which see profits of £15 million this year rising to £19 million or more in 1991.

But the prospects of an agreed bid (it would certainly need to be blessed by the highly mobile staff) overshadow the upside in SD-Scicon shares on trading grounds. Capel has looked at recent deals including the AT&T purchase of Istel and the likely sale value of Hoskyns plus a number of continental transactions.

Without taking an extreme line, the broker suggests that a reasonable take-out price is about 125p per share, a 74 per cent premium on the current market level.

When it comes, the bid could be a bloodless affair. Aside from BAE's 25 per cent, Morgan Grenfell clients hold 19 per cent, the Pru has 6 per cent and the board speaks for a further 9 per cent. Clearly SD-Scicon is a share to watch.

## Molins

MOLINS shareholders stick with their board like glue. They have been bid for five times in less than five years, and the latest attempt looks doomed to fail.

The offer on Molins' table is 252p cash from Leucadia — the New York group which took over Ivan Boesky's vehicle Cambrian & General Securities in 1989. Molins' tried and tested defence machine is again in action.

Molins shareholders should sit tight. Not only is the share

price, at 270p, comfortably above the offer, but it is still well below not only Molins' own valuation — but also well below what Olliff & Partners, Leucadia's own broker, once thought it should be.

Three months ago — at a time when Molins was fresh from seeing off a 230p-a-share bid from Sir Ron Brierley's IEP, Olliff published a circular on Molins concluding its worth was 485p a share.

The irony is that when IEP finally sold out of Molins, its parcel of 33 per cent of Molins was sold to Leucadia. Under takeover rules, Leucadia was then obliged to make a bid.

The broker's view of Molins' worth will not have been lost on Molins' institutional shareholders, which include M&G, with its 18.6 per cent holding, Prudential (5.3 per cent), and the US Heine Securities group (5.5 per cent).

Molins spent £1.13 million in its last financial year fighting off Sir Ron, and will be spending more funds this year fighting off Leucadia.

Meanwhile, because it holds such a commanding number of Molins shares, Leucadia is in a position to block any special resolution which Molins, in the ordinary course of business, might feel should be proposed.

Sit tight, Molins shareholders, and await offer number six.

GILT-EDGED

# Failings that robbed market of its friends

Readers of this column have been faced with a diet of unremitting gloom since the beginning of the year. Gilt yields continue to rise as inflation approaches double-digit levels, the trade deficit rears its ugly head again and the real economy trends a fine line between recession and anaemic expansion.

As an economist for a Japanese securities house, I perceive the view of Tokyo investors both with regard to the gilt market and the economy as less than encouraging.

Ten years of a Conservative Government appear to have done little to improve Britain's economic performance, especially relative to Continental Europe where countries such as France, the Netherlands and West Germany have a much more attractive inflation/output mix.

In addition, the bungling over the poll tax and Labour's lead in the opinion polls are leading Japanese investors to think that Tokyo's favourite politician — Mrs Thatcher — might be heading for early retirement.

Indeed, there are increasing questions over the competence of the Government in the economic policy sphere.

The Treasury's "firm exchange rate policy," for example, stretches even the credibility of Japanese investors long used to the concept of "tateme" (loosely translated as the gap between rhetoric and reality). Economic policy is now increasingly dictated by electoral expediency.

The Government's reluctance to "Europeanize," as well as the "foot-dragging" over full EMS entry, is also regarded as puzzling. The British attitude threatens London's role as the premier financial centre in Europe and increases the attractions of Frankfurt for the Japanese.

It is certainly the consensus view in the London markets that mid-1991 is a likely date for British entry. By then, the argument goes, "headline" retail price inflation will be close to the Treasury's 5 per cent projection for the second quarter of 1991. This should be sufficiently close to the average EC inflation rate to ensure the Madrid conditions for British entry are fulfilled.

While it is not too difficult to bring down British inflation to these levels as this year's price hikes wash out of the year-on-year RPI comparison (aided no doubt by lower mortgage rates in 1991), "underlying" inflation is likely to

be about 8 per cent or higher. This largely reflects growth in unit wage costs of about 10 per cent and the lagged effects of a weak pound on import prices (up 9 per cent on a year ago). Even if the economy tips into recession is unlikely to be sufficiently large or prolonged to significantly alter pay bargaining behaviour or diminish the threat of a wage-price spiral.

Even with a falling budget surplus, Mr Major has sufficient fiscal ammunition, as well as room to reduce interest rates, to kick-start the economy out of any possible recession. Failure to do otherwise ensures the prospect of electoral defeat will loom even larger.

Entry into the ERM against this background of poor "underlying" inflation could intensify the interest rate risks facing the Conservatives just before a general election (in late 1991, say). Consequently, there are very good reasons to think that British entry could be delayed until after the election. Of course, by then Chancellor Smith could be running the show from Number 11 and it is difficult to believe that economic performance and management could be much worse than now.

In the meantime, the gilt market remains friendless. Speculation of a gilt issue adds to the upward pressure on yields and is being regarded as a back-door method of monetary tightening, given Mr Major's base rate shyness.

Certainly, global bond market conditions are not helpful. The US quarterly refunding is unlikely to attract significant Japanese interest even with the yield on the US long bond at 9 per cent. Yields typically go up before and after a May auction in the US and yields of 7.4 per cent in the yen market are enough to divert the attention of a sizeable proportion of Japanese bond investors.

A possible delay by the Bundesbank in raising interest rates might provide sterling with a breathing space until the next set of inflation and trade figures. No doubt the Treasury will be working overtime to convince us that erratic items or unseasonal factors are responsible for the next set of bad figures. But DM2.50 still looks a plausible year-end target, though long gilt yields could well touch 14 per cent before then.

Neil MacKinnon  
Chief Economist  
Yamaichi International

US NOTEBOOK

# Bonds signal need for tighter money

FEARS and expectations that the Federal Reserve Board might tighten monetary conditions were moderated on Friday with the publication of GNP data for the first quarter.

The outcome was lower than expected, while inflation over the two quarters to end-March was not much different from the 4.4 per cent annual rate that has prevailed for some time.

There were heightened expectations last week of imminent Fed tightening, aroused by the evidence that three key indicators were performing badly.

In all respects these indicators — the dollar, commodity prices and the yield curve — were (and mostly still are) demanding that the Fed move to a far more restrictive policy stance.

Fed thinking seems to be trying to run monetary policy by watching and attempting to control the movement of monetary aggregates is next to useless these days due to the confusion caused by the deregulation of the financial markets.

Therefore, the Fed watches the "auction markets," of which the crucial ones are the dollar, the yield curve and commodity prices.

As the dollar weakens, the need to tighten increases. At present, the dollar looks strong but it would be truer to say the "yen is weak."

The bond market is saying inflationary expectations are rising. Some time ago, Mr Wayne Angell, a Fed governor, said: "We will know we are succeeding in our monetary policy when the bond market rallies."

In other words, a measure of success or failure of policy would be the level of bond prices. As bond prices have been tumbling, the Fed would no doubt feel its policy is failing.

When commodity prices are rising, the Fed's policy is failing. When they are stable or falling, the Fed's policy is succeeding.

At present, commodity prices are on an unrelenting

rise. Since its low of 222 in mid-1989, the Commodity Research Bureau index of commodity futures prices has risen to 242 — a rise of 9 per cent, which is clearly unacceptable.

By all these criteria, Fed policy today is far too loose.

Whether the hawks at the Fed are able to muster the rest of the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee behind them remains to be seen.

There is some question whether Mr Alan Greenspan, the chairman, will go along with a more aggressive policy of tightening, due to the fierce political pressure being exerted for lower interest rates.

However, those arguing for tightening could say to potential critics that unless Fed policy is tightened the bond market is only going to sink ever lower.

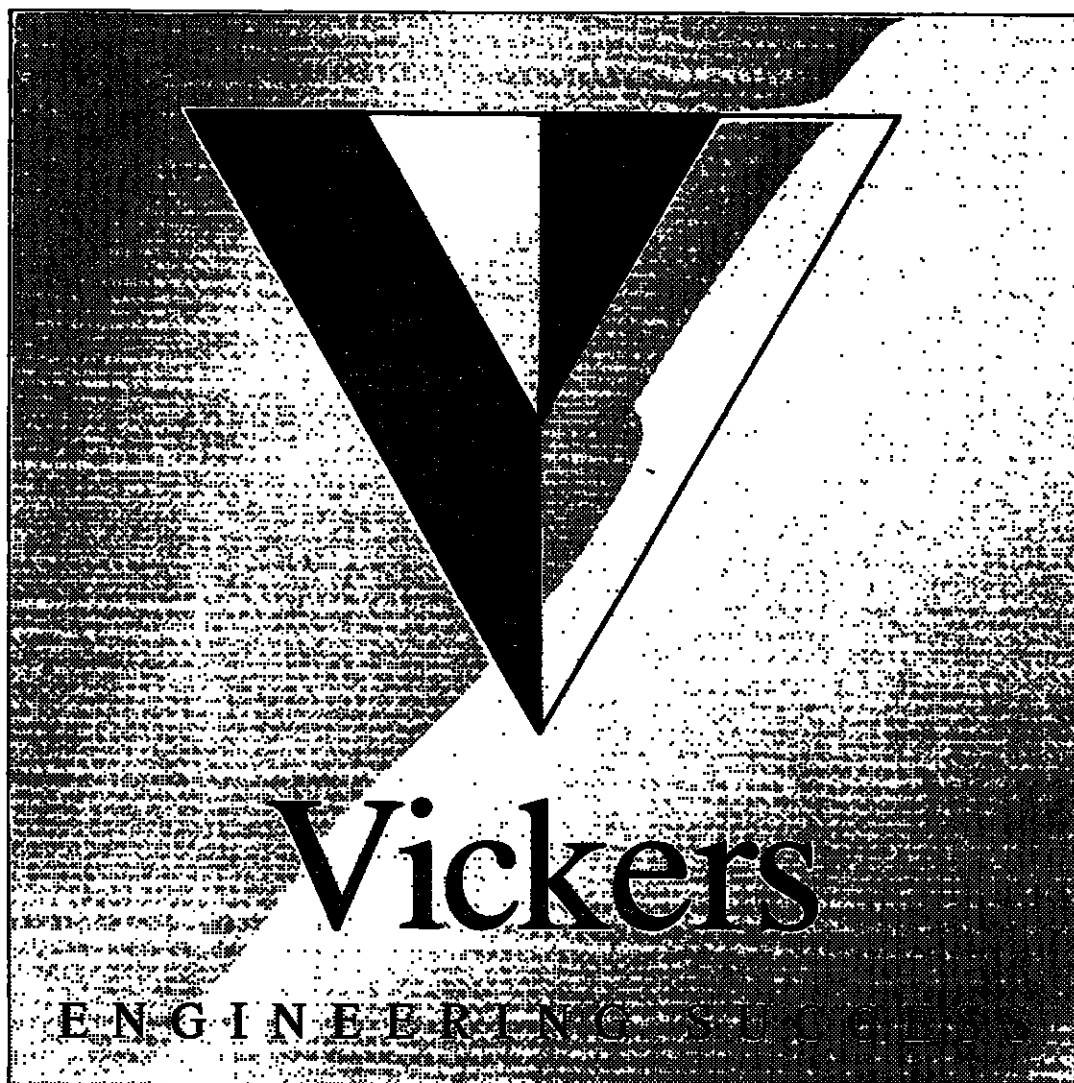
The extreme malaise in the bond market is leading to huge liquidations of all long positions.

The rush out of long positions into short positions is killing business in the financial markets. No one wants to be in a long position — so new issues, mergers and acquisitions, corporate loans and of course junk bonds are out. Fear has taken over.

But as long positions are liquidated at loss, the funds being poured into money market mutual funds, T-bills and bank deposits are not being used by the banks. Instead, all new cash coming into the banks is being used to support their deteriorating balance sheets and to finance the enormous losses now emerging because of the boom in lending and the rapid asset increases during the latter half of the 1980s.

The banks financed an excessive growth in assets during the last half of the 1980s; now they are discovering to their horror that a large part of these loans is worthless. This goes for American, British, Australian and Japanese banks.

Maxwell Newton  
New York



# DECISIVE AND UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR MANAGEMENT

95% OF INDEPENDENT VOTES\*

"Managing a company with a range of businesses demands considerable resource and long-term planning. The prospect of a long-term focus for discontent if the issues in question are not settled is potentially damaging for the company. The issues should be settled decisively and unequivocally by the shareholders who are the owners of the company."

D. H. Brydon  
Chairman, Institutional Shareholders' Committee  
Extract from letter to the Financial Times 19 April 1990

At the Vickers P.L.C.'s AGM last Thursday, shareholders were asked to vote on the proposals put forward by Sir Ron Brierley's vehicle, IEP Securities Limited, to demerge Rolls-Royce Motor Cars. The resolution to demerge was defeated by a resounding vote of support for Vickers' long-term strategy.

\*The votes cast against the resolution to demerge Rolls-Royce Motor Cars as a percentage of total votes (excluding the votes on behalf of IEP Securities Limited and the Directors of Vickers).



Fort Sterling changes its fortunes with environment-friendly recycled paper

# Green light for tissue maker

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

FORT Sterling was a lower rank paper-tissue producer manufacturing mainly for own labels when it launched its own "green" brand last April. But in just a few months the product had seized so much of the £600-million tissue market that a new £60 million paper machine is to be installed. It will virtually double capacity at the Lancashire base.

The UK arm of Fort Howard, the United States paper manufacturer, Fort Sterling was established about six years ago. It had a paper mill and a conversion plant that recycled paper as an economically priced feedstock.

Mr Rodney Ashford, marketing and sales director, said: "The breakthrough was in being able to produce the right grades of tissue, of comparable quality to other tissue, while using entirely recycled material. A year ago nobody else in tissues was selling recycled products so we have taken tissues down the 'green' route."

The main products are toilet tissue and kitchen rolls, which Fort Sterling sells under the Nouvelle brand. The "helps save trees" slogan pushes home the green message. Mr Ashford said: "Our timing with the green promotion turned out absolutely right because it was last spring



On a roll: Rodney Ashford, of Sterling, which will almost double its capacity by installing a £60 million paper machine

when there was most attention turned to environmentally friendly products."

With bigger competitors such as Scott Paper's Andrex and Kimberly-Clark's Kleenex moving in to the market, "green" penetration in toilet tissue is already 6.2 per cent, and 10.6 per cent in paper

towels. This compares with 5 per cent for green detergents.

After Nouvelle's April launch last year — with prices pitched 6 per cent below the leaders — Fort Sterling seized 3.4 per cent of the tissue market by the autumn. Capacity was strained, promotion was cut and the market share

changed to marginally less than 3 per cent. About £5 million went on interim production improvements but installation of the new state-of-the-art paper machine will double the impact.

Mr Ashford does not underestimate the competition from larger companies in the new

"green" tissue sector. His latest move is to bring in plastic film wrapping for Nouvelle products which is itself made partly from recycled materials.

He said: "Turnover last year was about £60 million and this year it should be approaching £80 million."

## Vard cruises to London listing

By Our City Staff

VARD, the world's second largest cruise line, is preparing for a London listing in June to broaden ownership of its ships from its Oslo base and existing listing on the Norwegian stock exchange.

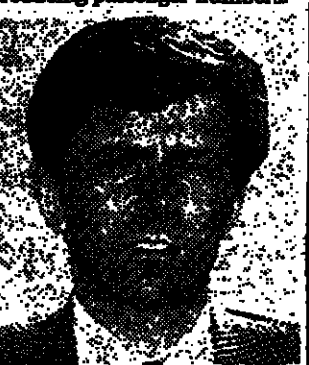
It is understood there are no plans by Mr Joern Eriksen, managing director, for cash-raising with the listing.

Vard is worth about £350 million on the Oslo market. It now owns the Royal Cruise Line, which operates what is claimed to be the world's most luxurious cruise lines, the Royal Viking Sun.

Recent results revealed a first-quarter drop to Kr92.4 million (49.2 million), from Kr120 million. But first-quarter figures last year were inflated by unexpected profits from the Royal Viking Sun's inaugural cruise.

Analysts expect this year's

profits to exceed 1989's Kr478 million. In addition to the West Coast and Miami cruise operations, Vard runs a ferry service between Norway and Denmark. This lost Kr6 million in this first quarter, an improvement on last year's Kr14 million loss, despite the lack of snow in Norway reducing passenger numbers.



Wider horizons: Eriksen

## Monarch intent on staying solo

By Harvey Elliott  
Air Correspondent

DESPITE the close attentions of a number of financial "marriage brokers" who are trying to bring together rival airlines throughout Britain, Monarch Airlines — one of the most successful charter carriers — is determined to stay aloof.

After the death of its chairman and managing director Mr Alan Snadden, a number of City analysts and brokers drew up plans for the company to merge with Britannia. The project looked, at first sight, to be a perfect fit between the two main carriers operating out of Luton.

However, Mr Don McAngus, Monarch's new managing director, insists the Swiss-owned company which controls the airline has no intention of selling.

"We are perfectly happy as we are," he said. "We are

confident of making a healthy profit this year and are not seeking any merger or sale."

Monarch has a modern fleet of seven Boeing 757s, four 737-300s and has just taken delivery of two Airbus A300s to enable it to carry more passengers with the same number of slots from overcrowded Gatwick.

The company also has close links with Air France and Lufthansa in operating a service to and from Berlin where another five 757s have been attached.

Despite Monarch's declared intention of resisting the blandishments from the growing number of outside companies who see an opportunity for making mergers within the airline industry, it is certain to be approached again in the coming months.

## Alternative view of ISE future

THE International Stock Exchange could overcome its profitability problems arising from low volume and excess capacity by becoming a central matching market with competing dealers, according to Mr Brian Scott-Quinn, a senior lecturer in financial markets at Reading University.

Writing in the latest *National Westminster Bank Quarterly Review*, he puts forward a proposal for reform that runs counter to the ideas of a committee of ISE members.

Mr Scott-Quinn says the key to profitability lies in lower costs and increased product differentiation and specialization.

## ECONOMIC VIEW

# Why pensions should stay in public domain

Nigel Lawson was ever the thinking man's Chancellor, whatever criticism has followed in the wake of his early retirement from the Cabinet last autumn. But, for all his experience of Treasury purdah, he was not always good at keeping back his cogitations about how to steer a mature economy such as Britain's into enlightened old age.

It was in a moment of weakness, while discreetly briefing the gentlemen of the fourth estate in November 1988, that he appeared to signal that the universal benefit of the state pension was about to be dismantled in support of the Government's immediate good housekeeping and underlying strategy of diminishing the role of the state. Large loomed the spectre of the means-tested pension. Concern that changes in the age structure of the population would seriously increase demands on the public purse in the decades ahead, undoing much of work of the Thatcher years, lay behind Lawson's thinking. And he was not alone in this.

The Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development, the leading industrial nations' club, was also loudly ringing alarm bells about the threat posed by rapidly ageing populations — a threat that is undiminished.

When the dust had settled on Lawson's "revelation," the Government did indeed start to target certain groups of pensioners — the disabled and those over 75 — who had not benefited from the introduction of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps). Accordingly, they last October received an extra £2.50 a week for single people and £3.50 for married couples.

This fell far short of dismantling state pensions, but it did indicate a desire to target special cases. Given its present low rating among the electorate, it is wholly understandable that the Government is saying little about the implications of the Lawson leak. That is not to say all is forgotten.

Before his leap to high office, John Major was, after all, a diligent chief secretary at the Treasury. He has also publicly cultivated the image of a man with a strong interest in the social dimension as well as the economic. A fresh mandate for the Conservatives could well see the targeted pension concept resurface. It would certainly marry well with the vigorous and not inexpensive drive by the Treasury to popularize personal pensions and broaden the choice of private pension options. If consumers choose to pay the private sector to look after them in old age, why should the taxpayer pay a universal state pension?

In *Pensioners and the Public Purse*, published today, the Institute for Fiscal Studies scrutinizes the Government's record over the past decade and comes to some interesting conclusions about the merits of following through the Lawson logic. While the average incomes of pensioners have risen over the past decade, and look likely to continue rising as individual entitlements to Serps grow, there has been a disturbing rise in inequality.

In the 1970s, the gap between the richest and the poorest pensioners narrowed. Since 1980, it has widened again, largely because of the Government's decision to link pensions to prices and not wages. The IFS concludes that this move, which reduced the gross public spending cost by 20 per cent, has sharply increased dependence on means-tested benefits among pensioners, with far-reaching consequences for public spending.

It calculates the cost of these extra benefits would lower by 43 per cent the net cost of bringing pensions back into line with earnings growth. It would also reduce the number of pensioners on income support by almost 80 per cent.

On the key question of re-targeting the system away from universal pensions towards greater reliance on means-testing, the IFS points to the "stigma" and inconvenience of claiming benefits. This is seen as an important reason for the less than 100 per cent take-up — a sign that some needy are being missed. The state pension still appears to be well targeted on poverty, with only 24 per cent of expenditure boosting incomes above the level of means-tested benefit. The rest is used to bring pensioner incomes up to that floor.

As luck would have it, Britain's demographic picture is somewhat brighter over the coming decades than its nearest competitors'. Population ageing looks set to be much more of a problem for Japan and West Germany.

The population over 75 will, however, grow very significantly in Britain too, placing much greater demands on the health and social services budgets. Could privatization be the answer here? The IFS conclusion is a clear "no" to any major shift in the balance of private and public provision for the elderly, given the high cost risks of old age. Vouchers for health and social care are deemed problematic. This leaves only sub-contracting of service provision as a real runner.

Colin Narbrough  
Economics Correspondent

## Double blow for HK economy

From Luhn Yu in Hong Kong

AN UNEXPECTED big rise in the inflation rate and further falls in domestic exports have fed fears that Hong Kong's economy is entering a downward spiral.

The consumer price index, which jumped 10 per cent in March, was "disappointingly high", compared with rises of 9.8 per cent in January and 8.4 per cent in February, said Dr Alan McLean, chief economist of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp.

"The recent strength of the US dollar has not helped Hong Kong exports," he said.

The Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the US currency. The fall in domestic exports by HK\$16.5 billion (£1.3 billion), or 0.7 per cent in the same month, reflected tough business conditions and slower economic growth. It was the fifth consecutive month in which domestic exports fell.

Fortunately, re-exports, using Hong Kong as a transit centre, grew 16.1 per cent to HK\$30.7 billion in March, taking total exports to HK\$47.3 billion, 9.6 per cent up on the same period last year. Because imports rose

more rapidly, by HK\$2.69 billion or 5.6 per cent, a visible trade deficit of HK\$3.82 billion was recorded for March.

To make matters worse, US protectionist law threatens to take the steam out of Hong Kong's textile and garment trade, which accounts for 40 per cent of domestic exports. Proposed tariffs, quota arrangements and anti-dumping measures could deal a severe blow to manufacturers already hit by rising costs and an acute shortage of labour.

A preliminary ruling by the Commerce Department last

week found Hong Kong guilty of selling knitwear at cut-price in the US, and two exporters have been fined before a final ruling in July. If that goes against Hong Kong, it could cripple the knitwear trade, which produced sales of HK\$1.62 billion to the US last year.

Mr Eddie Lu, chairman of the Hong Kong knitwear exporters' group, said: "Hong Kong is among the world's most competitive free-trade environments and our firms must make profits, otherwise we could not survive."

## Close shave averted

Another great City institution is now faced with extinction but in a final affectionate act, its last owner has given it a 12-month reprieve to allow time to try to find a saviour. Lionel Lee, who died earlier this month while on holiday in Tel Aviv, at the age of 75, had been the proprietor of Geoffrey's, the barbers beside the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, for 26 years, and had worked there for even longer, since it opened in 1934. A widower, in his will he has left the business to relatives, but with the condition attached that they must wait a year before selling it. "The staff are all very anxious," says one regular, "because of the uncertainty." Lee and his team used to cut between 120 and 200 City heads a day, at £10 a time — with the number of customers rising and falling in direct correlation with daily movements in the FT-SE Index. Lee's memorial service, due to be held at St Michael's Church, opposite Geoffrey's, on May 23, should bring together an impressive array of the great and the good from the Square Mile. Among his loyal clients were past and present Bank of England Governors — Leigh-Pemberton, O'Brien, Richardson, and Cobbold — and more than 30 former Lord Mayors.

**Sailing off**  
Architectural jobber Tony Lewis, one-time chairman of Smith, New Court, who went into semi-retirement and be-

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Ginger hangs up sticks

A colourful City character, who will perhaps be best remembered for the time he turned up in drag on the floor of the Stock Exchange, on the day dealers in Miss World shares began, or for his preference for khaki shorts and an Australian-style straw hat, complete with swinging cox, on Christmas Eve, will be leaving the Square Mile today. Eric Baker, otherwise affec-

tionately known — much against his own wishes — as "Ginger" Baker, is retiring at the age of 61. A partner with Shaw & Co, the broker, in the 1970s, he left to work for a succession of other City firms before returning to Shaw & Co two years ago. "He was one of the market floor's characters, a very witty man and always helpful," one of his old friends recalled.

came non-executive chairman, two years ago, bade a fond farewell to 80 or so past and present colleagues on Friday, at an in-house buffet luncheon party. The departure of Lewis, aged 62 — who will now have more time to extend his already impressive collection of cameras and sail his even more impressive yacht, *Sail*

*Water Gipsy* — precedes the arrival, tomorrow, of corporate financier extraordinaire Michael Richardson, 62. Richardson, a one-time partner of Cazenove, and a personal friend and frequent adviser to Mrs Thatcher, will be giving up his position as head of corporate finance at N.M. Rothschild, which owns a fully diluted 35 per cent of SNC — to join the firm. Although he will be non-executive chairman, he is expected to put in four days a week. Richardson revitalized Rothschild's corporate finance department. Word is he will do the same at SNC.

● Smith New Court has trebled the size of its brewery team in one fell swoop. It has recruited John Walters, a specialist salesman, and Mark Pollard, an analyst, from Laurence Prust. They will work with Smith's existing brewing analyst, Mike McCarthy, who heads the team.

## Wallace collection

Graham Wallace, former head of corporate communications at James Capel — which has lost more than its fair share of staff in recent weeks, including five European warrant traders who have gone to BZW — also left on Friday. Wallace, who had been with Capel three years, started his own company with offices in the City today. Called The Art of the Matter, it will, he says, "be a consultancy in corporate and brand positioning. If you are a corporate or brand entity you have a certain character and image. I will produce a study to show if your marketing programme matches that character or image." Wallace, aged 41, has effectively been replaced by Marjorie Stummel.

## He no meaney

Attacked with catcalls and cries of "insider" when he won the first prize in a raffle at his firm's Christmas Party last week — airline tickets worth £1,000, donated by Air Tours — Richard Meaney, a dealer at Winterflood Securities, did the honourable thing and offered them for auction. His generosity helped raise a total of £3,000 for Remedy — the Rehabilitation and Medical Research Trust — of which his boss, Brian Winterflood is vice-president. The eventual bidder, paying £1,200, was Martin Burton, who will have plenty of time to use them. He was head of derivatives at Citicorp Springhouse Vickers and is still "resting" at home after the firm quit UK equities at the turn of the year.

Carol Leonard

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# Trump plays the king of cash in a high-risk game

As doubts are voiced about the true extent of the Trump fortune, John Durie examines the evidence

Mr Donald Trump, the ubiquitous New York property developer, says he wants to raise cash for his empire, but just why he is making the move has caused uproar on Wall Street.

Some say Mr Trump's empire is not what it was. *Forbes Magazine* will today publish a revised version of his wealth which shows it falling from \$1.7 billion last year to \$500 million this year. It says his debts total \$3.2 billion and his assets \$3.7 billion.

Mr Trump rejected these figures. He told *The Times*: "The facts are quite plain. I have \$400 million sitting in the bank and had a net cash flow of \$157 million last year, and will have a net cash flow of \$171 million this year."

"I just believe property is heading downwards and I want to be king of cash because I believe in doing so I will be offered some very good deals."

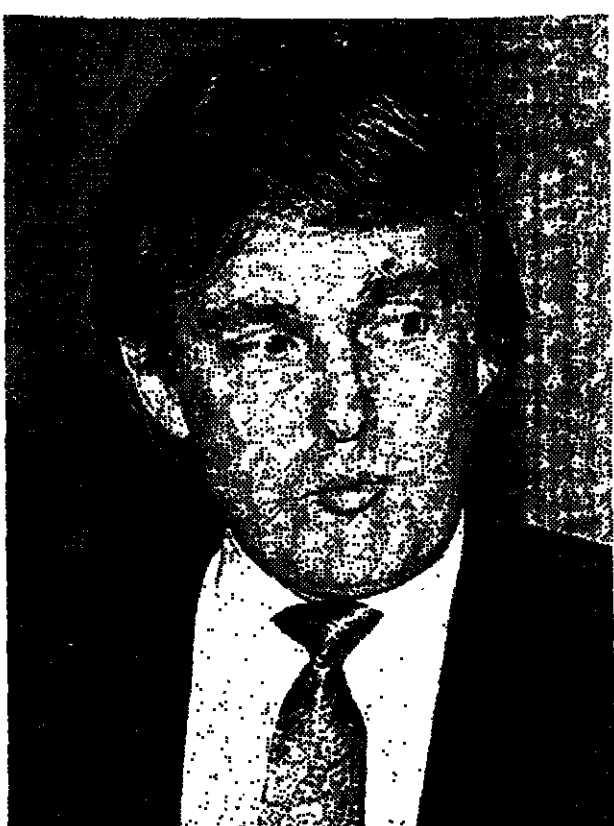
Mr Trump launched his empire in 1975 by taking advantage of the near-bankrupt state of the City of New York. Now, the 43-year-old's empire stretches from Atlantic City casinos and New York property, including the Plaza Hotel, to the airline shuttle running between New York, Washington and Boston, named Trump Shuttle.

Mr Trump says he wants to sell the shuttle, which he bought last year from the financially-troubled Mr Frank Lorenzo for \$365 million.

In deals worth \$290 million he is also refinancing two Manhattan properties, his 50 per cent stake in the Grand Hyatt Hotel and Trump Tower, his Fifth Avenue retail and apartment building.

Mr Trump encourages publicity, trading his name like others do with their brand names by courting sporting heroes like Mike Tyson, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, and doing interviews in magazines ranging from *Fortune* to *Playboy*.

Attention has focused on the split between "The Donald", as he is known in the New York tabloids, and wife



Donald Trump: "business is better than ever"

Ivana, after his affair with Donna Maples, whose only claim to fame was once coming second in a Georgia beauty contest.

Mr Trump confided to *The Times*: "Look, I hate to say anything about divorce is positive, but the fact is that business is better now than it ever was." The son of a multi-millionaire New York property developer, Mr Trump started out by collecting rents from his father's tenants in Queens and Brooklyn.

A graduate of Wharton Business School - which includes among its alumni Mr Michael Milken, the securities dealer convicted of fraud - Mr Trump, at the age of 28, used hefty tax breaks to buy the Commodore Hotel above New York's Grand Central Railway Station in 1975. This is now The Grand Hyatt hotel.

He also invested early in Atlantic City, spending \$1 million buying land, before gambling was allowed there in 1976. By the early 1980s, when no one wanted to go near Atlantic City, he had \$22 million invested in its future.

He now has more than \$2 billion invested in the city, which attracts revenue of \$3 billion a year as a gambling centre. His latest \$1 billion venture, the Taj Mahal casino, is financed almost entirely by municipal bond notes requiring \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million a day to break even.

Mr Trump's assets are privately owned, with any debt applied strictly to each asset on a non-recourse basis, according to Mr Trump. He sometimes borrows the entire cost of a new acquisition, as he did with his airline shuttle, but this now has a cash deficit estimated to be about \$40 million a year and will remain so unless Mr Trump can lift its market share from its present 50 per cent to 65 per cent.

Mr Trump's stock market investments were typified by last year's \$7.5 billion bid for American Airlines which was later withdrawn.

But this game, aimed at increasing a potential target's share price to allow a quick profit on his investment, is a short-term bull market game which at best can only be maintained if the market believes you will one day follow through with your intention.

But Mr Trump was fortunate in making his wealth during the bull market and he had profitable ventures speculating in groups like MCA, Pillsbury and Alexander's.

The only acquisition he followed through was buying the Resorts International Group in 1987.

Some of Mr Trump's most prized possessions are running cash flow deficits and the Plaza is showing a book loss. But he rightly argues that the building, bought two years ago for \$260 million, would readily be sold for a profit.

Mr Trump, who has also devoted considerable time to charitable works, remains one of America's wealthy people, even on *Forbes'* downgraded estimate.

Time will tell whether he is indeed worth more than others claim and whether he can repeat his unique magic in creating more wealth.

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## Property crisis signalled in US

THE United States has 500 million sq ft of office space vacant and awaiting buyers, equal to the combined size of the entire commercial office space of New York and Detroit (John Durie writes).

Once present projects are completed, even if no further buildings were erected for eight years, the market would still have plenty of supply.

Mr William Saidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, said recently that US bank assets had grown by 12 per cent since 1986, but real estate loans had grown by 48 per cent and non-performing real estate loans by 54 per cent.

To make matters worse, Mr Saidman, as caretaker for the failed savings and loans industry (thrifts), had, at the end of last year, \$200 billion of real estate to sell by 1996.

Three facts lie behind a growing real estate crisis in the US. A market with chronic over-supply, combined with the Government tightening controls on thrifts, has choked the supply of new real estate loans at a time when commercial banks are starting to tighten lending.

The Resolution Trust Corporation, which is empowered to sell the thrift assets, is not allowed to sell into depressed markets at less than 95 per cent of appraised market values. Only last week, it considered plans to cut the appraised value of its entire real estate inventory by 15 per cent, which would force real estate prices down.

With commercial real estate over-capacity running at more than 20 per cent, the US Federal Reserve is also under market pressure to increase interest rates, which would further dampen the market.

Despite these warning signs, Miss Susan Hering, a Salomon Bros property analyst, told *The Times* that there was little sign yet of commercial banks slowing real estate lending.

In a recent report, Salomon Bros said in the five years to last December, real estate's share of outstanding loans rose from 25 to 37 per cent and its share of new loans amounted to 64 per cent.

Citicorp's chairman, Mr John Reed, recently said that he expected to increase provisions further against non-performing real estate loans after adding \$800 million to its real estate provisions last year.

Although banking's taste for real estate loans was initially centred in regional banks, others followed in lemming fashion. Bankwatch, the bank analyst group, noted that continental banks had the fifth-largest rise in real estate loans among US banks, with real estate loans up by 33.9 per cent last year.

Initial problems have centred on regional banks, evidenced by the sale by the Bank of New England of a third of its assets.

It may be too early to say that the US real estate market is in crisis, but all signs point in that direction.

## Market's weather eye focuses on ICI

TODAY

THE market eagerly awaits news from Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's biggest chemicals company, which is chaired by Sir Denys Henderson, and which is still seen by many as a barometer for British stocks.

The company will be affected by the weakness in the British and US economies, with these markets accounting for about 45 per cent of sales.

Bulk chemicals' profits are forecast to be down heavily following a cyclical drop. However, this will be partly offset by good performances from pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and explosives.

First quarter pre-tax profits are expected to fall from £442 million to £345 million by Mr Ian John at County NatWest WoodMac. This is at the lower end of market forecasts which range from £340 million to £380 million.

National Home Loans, the mortgage lender, will be affected by the difficulties in the housing market, although it should reap the benefits of diversification into other areas of financial services. BZW expects interim pre-tax profits to climb from £13.4 million to £14.5 million.

Moss Bros Group, the menswear retail and hire group, gave a warning of difficult conditions late last year. However, Mr Wilfred Cass, the chairman, thought the group was being affected less than competitors.

Analysts' pre-tax profit forecasts range from £2.6 million to £3.5 million for the full year, compared with £2.9 million.

Second-half profits at Tootal, the textiles group where Coats Vytella has a 29.9 per cent stake, are likely to fall sharply. UBS Phillips & Drew sees pre-tax profits of £36 million for the full year, compared with £42.3 million, with forecasts ranging from £35 million to £39 million.

Interim: Anglo-Park Group, Barbican Holdings, Imperial Chemical Industries (first quarter), Lowland Investment Co, National Home Loans Holdings, Rentamaster, Finsale: ASE Barnett Kinnings, Benlox, Blackland Oil, Commercial Bank of the Near East, Folkestone Group, Futura Holdings, Invercare Group, Lilley, Moss Bros Group, Optima Group, Riva Group, Spong Holdings, S&U Stores, Tootal

News is also awaited on the company's gearing, which was 159 per cent at the end of September, although it has made disposals totalling about £200 million. Some analysts



Henderson: bulk setback



Shaw: progress in US

Group, Video Store Group, Wensum Company. Economic statistics: Quarterly house purchase finance statistics (first quarter), UK new vehicle registrations (March).

### TOMORROW

Interim: Kwik Save Group, Multi-trust, Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Tate & Lyle. Finsale: BLP Group, Europa Minerals, Spear (JV) & Sons. Economic statistics: UK official reserves (April), monetary statistics (March), sterling commercial paper (March), UK advance energy statistics (March), overseas travel and tourism (January/February), detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators.

### WEDNESDAY

US refining and sweetener profits should have shown steady progress at Tate & Lyle, the sugar producer and sweeteners group headed by Mr Neil Shaw, offsetting the flat profit profile in Europe. The company will benefit from a full six-month contribution from Amstar, the North American cane sugar refining business.

Further news is awaited on the company's interest in a merger with its troubled rival, Berisford International, the commodities and property trader which owns British Sugar.

News is also awaited on the company's gearing, which was 159 per cent at the end of September, although it has made disposals totalling about £200 million. Some analysts

think it can reduce gearing to under 90 per cent by its year-end.

Smith New Court forecasts interim pre-tax profits of £85 million, against £70 million, with market forecasts ranging from £79 million to £85 million.

Kwik Save Group, the supermarket chain strong in the North of England, should continue to see the benefits of high volume growth.

Mr Simon Raggart at Williams de Broe is expecting interim pre-tax profits to climb by 16 per cent to £41 million on sales estimated to be ahead by 24 per cent to £725 million.

Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Scotland's largest clearing bank, confirmed that it had a £751 million exposure to leveraged buyouts at the beginning of the year. Smith New Court recently downgraded its forecast to £143 million for the half-year, compared with £171 million last time.

This figure - at the bottom end of market forecasts which rise to £170 million - includes a £70 million provision, partly linked to the LBO exposure.

Interim: Kwik Save Group, Multi-trust, Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Tate & Lyle. Finsale: BLP Group, Europa Minerals, Spear (JV) & Sons. Economic statistics: UK official reserves (April), monetary statistics (March), sterling commercial paper (March), UK advance energy statistics (March), overseas travel and tourism (January/February), detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators.

### THURSDAY

Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals group, should see a solid earnings increase. BZW expects pre-tax profits of £165 million, compared with £128.2 million, with forecasts ranging from £155 million to £165 million.

Interim: Bellway, Euromoney Publications, Glasgow Income Trust, Leeds Group, PHS Holdings, Philips Lamps Holding (first quarter), Wellcome.

### FRIDAY

Interim: Conrite Group, Guinness Mahon Holdings. Finsale: BMSB, Boot (Henry) and Sons, Delyn Packaging, Worth Investment Trust.

Philip Pangalos

## Decision day in leisure bid

By Michael Tate

TODAY Mr Michael Ward, European Leisure chairman, will have to decide whether or not to extend the controversial £77 million takeover bid for Midsummer Leisure.

The offer, currently worth about 146p a share, has already been declared final. Mr Adam Page, Midsummer chairman, his fellow directors and a few of their associates have set their faces against the deal.

They committed their 19.8 per cent total holdings to European at the outset - indeed they suggested the merger - but subsequently, and unprecedentedly, changed

their minds. They are now advising shareholders to reject the offer that they are bound to accept.

Mr Page has indicated that it was pressure from his big shareholders that forced the volte-face, and clearly there are a couple of institutional shareholders whose votes Mr Ward should not rely on.

But leisure analysts are increasingly coming down in favour of the deal, which offers an exit p/e of 10.9, a substantial premium to other leisure companies with high gearing problems.

Midsummer's gearing is 106 per cent, and would drop to 68

per cent if the merger goes through.

Mr Paul Heath at Henderson Crosthwaite says the commercial logic for the merger is "unassailable" and points out that shareholders in an independent Midsummer face "an uncomfortable year or two of rising tax charges and minimal earnings progress at best".

The company's balance sheet, even after selective disposals, would not support reinvestment for longer-term growth, he says.

Midsummer's share price has slumped to 107p - well below the bid value.

### NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 157TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF FRIENDS' PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE will be held at GLAZIER'S HALL, 9 MONTAGUE CLOSE, LONDON BRIDGE, SE1 9DD, ON WEDNESDAY 23RD MAY 1990, at 2.30 p.m. to transact the following business:-

1. To receive the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 1989 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon.

2. To re-elect as Directors of the Office the following Directors, who retire by rotation:

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Jenkin of Roding  
Michael Melluish  
Leo Tutt  
John Whitney

3. To re-appoint Price Waterhouse as the auditors to the Office and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

By Order of the Directors,  
B. W. SWEETLAND, Secretary,  
30th April 1990

### NOTES

(a) A member is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a member) to attend the above meeting and vote instead of him.

(b) To be valid the instrument appointing a proxy, which should be as near to the form set out in rule 30 of the Rules of the Office as circumstances admit, and the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed, or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority, must be deposited at Pixham End, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1QA, not less than forty-eight hours before the time fixed for holding the meeting, or adjourned meeting, or, in the case of a poll, not less than twenty-four hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll.

(c) Proxy forms may be obtained on application to the Secretary.

(d) Members intending to attend and vote personally at the meeting should be prepared to quote their policy numbers.

(e) Only members are entitled to vote. Certain policyholders are not members. If a policyholder who is not also a member completes and returns a form of proxy, it will not be counted.

(f) Members have one vote each irrespective of the number of policies held.

(g) Members are entitled, on application to the Secretary, to receive a copy of the Report and Accounts.

Friends' Provident Life Office,  
Pixham End,  
Dorking,  
Surrey, RH4 1QA

## NEW INTEREST RATES FOR BARCLAYS BUSINESS ACCOUNTS FROM 1st MAY

### BUSINESS PREMIUM AND FARMERS PREMIUM ACCOUNT

INVESTMENT	NET RATE % P.A.	GROSS EQUIV % P.A.	GROSS RATE % P.A.
£1,000 - £24,999	9.75	13.00	12.50
£25,000 - £99,999	10.00	13.33	13.25
£100,000 - £249,999	10.15	13.53	13.50
£250,000 - £1m	10.25	13.67	13.625

The Business Premium Account and Farmers Premium Account are high interest immediate access accounts for business customers and farmers. Interest is paid quarterly and there is a minimum deposit of £1,000 and a maximum deposit of £1,000,000.

New interest bands for the Clients Premium Account and High Interest Business Account will be announced shortly.



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The West Lancs Project, 1 Westgate, Pennylands Skelmersdale  
Lancashire WN8 6LP Tel: 0695 50200 Fax: 0695 50112

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COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

THE WEST LANCs PROJECT

### BRUSSELS

## EC halts drive for uniform tax rate

ATTEMPTS to set up a single tax regime for companies in European Community countries have suffered a series of blows, leaving little chance of establishing a workable common system in time for the single market in 1993.

The European Commission has shelved indefinitely its plans to set a uniform corporate tax rate, and has expressed its "deep disappointment" that ministers have still not managed to agree basic measures to cut the risk of over-taxation on subsidiaries paying dividends to parent companies abroad.

Brussels believes that the risk of double taxation seriously dampens enthusiasm for cross-border mergers, and is threatening to push EC heads of government to endorse its company tax proposals when they meet again in Dublin on June 25.

In addition, M Jacques Delors, president of the commission, has said that he would not advocate abolishing each EC country's veto over tax negotiations, even though he recently likened the commission's efforts to harmonize VAT rates to Sisyphus hauling boulders up a hill only to see them tumble down the other side.

SIR Leon Brittan, the European commissioner, has said that Britain risks being "left dazed behind the roadside" unless its businessmen and politicians gear themselves up to tackling new markets in Eastern Europe, especially East Germany. British companies should be queuing to take over, or sign joint ventures with, East German firms, he said in a speech in Manchester on Friday, in order "to prevent the creation of major monopolistic concerns in the German market", dominated by West German industry. The shaky economy of the German Democratic Republic will soon be locked into the solid currency, the tax regime and the legal framework of Britain's biggest trading partner, the German Federal Republic, he said.

BRUSSELS has new plans up its sleeve that would force all EC governments to allow advertisements to mention, and presumably talk down, competing brands. "The principle is that comparative advertising should be possible throughout the Community," said Mr Karel Van Miert, EC consumer affairs commissioner, adding that specific proposals would be unveiled later this year. The practice is currently banned in almost all EC countries.

AMERICAN and European firms trying to tap the lucrative market in biotechnology will soon be encouraged to avoid expensive overlaps in research, especially in the earlier stages, by co-ordinating it within a joint EC/US task force. Agreement on the joint body will come "fairly soon", according to Signor Filippo Maria Pandolfi, EC research commissioner, who met his US counterpart in Washington recently.

THE Commission wants to increase the chances of small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) winning major government contracts abroad as it opens up protected national procurement markets to competitive bidding from other EC countries. Recognizing that SMEs are often left on the sidelines of a market dominated by bigger players, the commission has approved a memorandum outlining plans to encourage them to bid jointly for major contracts throughout the EC. This is crucial, because new EC rules deregulating public purchasing cover only the biggest contracts, leaving smaller ones still exposed to national favouritism. SMEs will enjoy legal and fiscal incentives, simplified award procedures and the strong arm of EC law to ensure that contractors pay their fees on time.

Peter Guilford  
Brussels

## THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

Stock market information can be found on the following numbers:  
General market 0898 121220; company news 0898 121221; active shares 0898 121225.  
Calls charged 38p a minute (peak), 25p (standard), inc. VAT.







# Portfolio

## PLATINUM

**Claims required for +34 points**

**Claimants should ring 0254-33272**

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)  
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end May 11. \$Contango day May 14. Settlement day May 21.  
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (sz) denotes Alpha Stocks.

[illegible]

Please take into account any

[illegible]

The winner of the weekend Portfolio Platinum bond of £4,000 was Mr James Fraser, of Shipton Moyne, Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

3,000,000	McGraw-Hill	275	-2	273
13,000	McGraw-Hill	75	-2	73
34,000	McGraw-Hill	130	+1	131
72,000	McGraw-Hill	58		58
45,000	McGraw-Hill	225	-25	200
4,000,000	McGraw-Hill	37	-2	35
5,000,000	McGraw-Hill	75	-5	70

### SHORTS (Under Five Years)

[illegible]

### FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

[illegible]

**OVER FIFTEEN YEARS**

	71	72	73
8,000,000 New York	11	11	11
8,000,000 Chicago	12	12	12

TOBACCOS			
100,000,000 NY (net)	100	100	100
100,000,000 CH (net)	100	100	100
1,000,000,000 NY (net)	100	100	100

TRANSPORT			
100,000,000 NY (net)	100	100	100
1,000,000,000 NY (net)	100	100	100

**INDEX-LINE**  
725m Truss

[illegible]

8.

[illegible]

Ex dividend • Ex at • Forecast dividend • Interest payment received • Price at suspension • Dividend and yield exclude a special payment • Pre-suspension figures • Forecast earnings • Ex after • Ex before • Ex price • Ex ratio







01-481 4481

## LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

The Royal College  
of Physicianshas the following vacancy within its  
Publications Department**Secretarial  
Administrative Assistant**

Grade A7 salary circa £12,500 p.a.

The College's Publications Department is responsible for producing the College's quarterly journal. In addition the department is responsible for publishing the many varied reports which arise from the College's committees and working parties and conference proceedings.

The activities of this department have grown over recent years and we are now looking for a new departmental member to join the team.

We are looking for enthusiasm, commitment and a genuine interest in the work of the College as well as good secretarial and organisational skills.

This post requires excellent secretarial skills including experience in word-processing (although cross-training will be given) and the ability to prioritise and organise work loads and an eye for detail. Additionally candidates will be able to offer effective communication abilities.

Previous experience in a publishing environment would be an advantage but is not essential.

This post carries twenty days annual holidays plus additional days at Christmas and Easter, interest free season ticket loans, a contributory pension scheme and free staff lunches in the College's staff restaurant.

If this post is of interest then please either telephone Fareena Khan on 01-935-1174 for an application form or send your detailed CV to Victoria Joseph Personnel Manager at the RCP, 11 St. Andrews Place, Regents Park, London NW1 4EL.

The College operates a no smoking policy

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As Executive PA your role will offer real scope and career potential; your  
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The newly formed European headquarters  
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Salary in the £20-25,000 range depending  
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You will be responsible for the smooth running of the office and  
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Excellent all round PA role  
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\* A warm and very \*  
\* approachable secretary is \*  
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\* considerable Client contact \*  
\* supporting top City Director \*  
\* (excellent the Brooking). \*  
\* Excellent all round PA role \*  
\* including all aspects of \*  
\* Director's business and \*  
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\* Age 25-35 ideal. \*  
\* Call Cathy 734 7823 \*  
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**£11,202-£13,374 inc.**

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Your primary duties will include the  
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To provide the right level of service, you  
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Closing date for receipt of applications: 14th  
May 1990

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are looking for people who  
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We are looking for people who  
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We are looking for people who  
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achieve their goals.

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achieve their goals.

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and have a good attitude.  
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**THE LEYS SCHOOL**  
**CAMBRIDGE**  
CB2 2AD

The Leys School require a young and enthusiastic PE  
teacher for September 1990. PE is timetabled throughout the  
school, and a very wide range of games coached.

The successful candidate would be expected to contribute  
to other extra-curricular activities. There could also be some  
classroom teaching available, and accommodation in return  
for resident Tutor duties. The School has its own salary  
scale.

Application with a full CV and the names of at least three  
references should be sent to the Headmaster, The Leys  
School, Cambridge, CB2 2AD, (0223-355377), from whom  
further details are available. (If you applied following the  
advertisement in January, and wish to be reconsidered,  
please just confirm by telephone.)



**THE LEYS SCHOOL**  
**CAMBRIDGE**  
CB2 2AD

The Leys school requires, preferably for  
September 1990, a DIRECTOR OF DRAMA.  
Drama and Theatre Studies are offered at  
GCSE and A Level, and there are extensive  
General Studies and extra-curricular  
programmes of Drama. The School has a well-  
equipped Theatre and Drama Studio.

The successful candidate will be an  
experienced drama specialist, able to lead the  
Department's teaching, take charge of the  
technical resources, and offering another  
subject as a subsidiary. Accommodation is  
available in return for resident Tutor duties.

The Leys has its own salary scale. Applications  
with a full CV and the names of three referees  
should be sent to the Headmaster, The Leys  
School, Cambridge, CB2 2AD, (0223-355377),  
from whom further details are available.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**CHELTENHAM COLLEGE**  
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16+ entry for September 1990. Enquiries for 1991  
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Further details available from:  
The Acting Headmaster, Cheltenham College,  
Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 7LD.  
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Applications by 1st June 1990.

This scholarship is established by Mrs. J. Lenseak in  
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**TEFL**

**ENGLISH CONVERSATION**



## Injuries cannot prevent a third rugby league Challenge Cup victory in a row

## Wigan rule as records tumble

By Keith Macklin

Warrington 14  
Wigan 36

AFTER yet another remarkable display of the irresistible professionalism of Wigan, one is inevitably left to wonder who was fooling who before the match. Wigan produced a performance which cast serious doubt on their ability to stay the pace in the most exciting game of the season. Warrington had huffed and puffed and threatened to blow down the Wigan edifice.

Yet, at the end of Saturday's dramatic Silk Cut Challenge Cup final, both these propositions had been turned on their heads.

Warrington were never in the hunt, while Wigan's parade of walking wounded seemed no more than a gigantic confidence trick, as Edwards, Hanley, Andy Gregory, Iro, Lydon and Platt played like men possessed.

The outstanding piece of courage came from the stand-off half, Shaun Edwards, who suffered a fractured jaw early in the game, but insisted on continuing, and played an outstanding role in Wigan's triumph, which in turn created a record of three consecutive Wembley victories.

All Wigan's injured stars were towering examples of the power of mind, assisted by a handsome Wembley bonus, over matter, as Warrington were demolished in demoralizing fashion by the team for whom the Wembley atmosphere acts like a course of adrenalin injections.

The Lance Todd Trophy for the man of the match went to Gregory, who established his own record by picking up his fifth winner's medal. Gregory defied the groin injury which will keep him out of the Great Britain tour to produce a storming display, in which his lightning breaks, eye for an opening, and perfect passes carved huge holes in a Warrington defence which started courageously, but eventually fell apart.

The Warrington captain, Mike Gregory, had promised that his side would not capitulate to Wigan as easily as St Helens last year and Halifax in 1988. Yet, they too went the



In full flight: Hanley, of Wigan, breaks through to score at Wembley, despite the efforts of Lyon and Burke

way of all lesser flesh. Indeed, their own suicidal tendencies led to the first two, and ultimately three, of the Wigan tries.

The full back, Lyon, had his kick charged down for Betts to swoop and score. Then the New Zealand centre, Mercer, produced an inexplicable professional lapse when, as Warrington attacked in the Wigan 22-metre area, he sent a feeble chip straight into the hands of the grateful sprinter, Preston, who raced 75 metres for a second gift touchdown.

To their credit, Warrington fought back with a splendid try by Mike Gregory on the stroke of half-time, to which Bishop, who had kicked badly, added the points.

However, this minor setback only served to fuel Wigan's determination, and

they took complete charge of the second period. Iro, whose hamstring injury only cleared last Thursday, carved out his personal Wembley mark by scoring two tries for the third year in a row, his powerful hips and stunning hand-off scattering defenders like chaff.

Hanley, whose pelvic injury may yet force his premature retirement from playing, took Gregory's perfectly-timed overhead pass to score the try all the Wigan supporters wanted, and when a desperate Warrington attack broke down in the Wigan 22, Hanley and Edwards took play to the other end for Preston to take the final pass for his second try.

Lydon, who had a pain-killing injection in his ankle, kicked six perfect goals in another immaculate Wigan

performance, only marred by the late tackle which put the Warrington half back, Bishop, out of the game with concussion. Lyon's unhappy afternoon was made easier to bear when he took Gregory's pass to run well for a consolation try.

After the game, the two coaches were understandably in utterly contrasting moods. Brian Johnson, of Warrington, said: "We made too many mistakes, but Wigan are a great side."

John Monie, his opposite number, said: "I took a calculated gamble and it paid off, because of the marvellous courage and professionalism of the players. I wanted Edwards to come off, but he wouldn't hear of it."

At the end of it all, there was further bad news to temper the

delight of Maurice Lindsay, the Wigan chairman, who is the Great Britain tour director. Edwards and the Warrington captain, Mike Gregory, who suffered an aggravation of an achilles tendon injury, are now doubtful for Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. With Hanley already out, Great Britain could be without the three men who have captained the side in the past year.

Reid has expected to join Suzanne Strudwick and the Australians, Corinne Dibnah, Denise Hutton and Karen Lunn, in the Daily Challenge One at Paradise Pains from May 13, which means all will miss the prestigious Hennessy Cup at St Germain.

WARRINGTON: D Lyon, D Drummond, G Mercer, P Bishop (top); Wigan: M Gregory, J Hanley, K Iro, D Bishop, M Preston, S Edwards, A Bishop, D Mercer (top); Wigan: M Gregory, J Hanley, K Iro, D Bishop, M Preston, S Edwards, A Bishop, D Mercer (top).

## GOLF

## De Lorenzi will wait to tackle the Americans

By Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent

MARIE-Laure de Lorenzi, of France, successfully defended the Fort Ladies Classic at the Woburn Golf and Country Club on Saturday, and then confirmed that she has no intention of transporting her talent to the United States.

"I shall play there only twice this year," Lorenzi said. "In the US Open and in our version of the Ryder Cup. It seems that the match will take place and we need it. We need something very strong to further publicize our tour."

There could not have been a finer advertisement for the Women Professional Golfers' European Tour (WPGET) on an afternoon of glorious sunshine than to see Lorenzi and Laurette Martinez of South Africa, come down the stretch together on the tree-lined Duchess course.

They captivated, both with their charm and their competence under pressure, the largest audience to assemble for a WPGET tournament in Britain. Martinez made only one error, when she rather amiably allowed her opponent to take the putt from the short 13th with her putter. She left the ball

20ft short. Lorenzi, having lost the lead she grasped with an eagle from 30 feet at the first, was on level terms again.

It remained that way until the 17th. There, both players struck excellent approach shots and the Frenchwoman was compelled to toss a coin to decide who putted first from 10ft. "I did not know what to call," Lorenzi said. "I came from France and live in Spain. I was told head or tails. I chose heads."

Lorenzi was right and so was the putt. Even then, Martinez almost followed her in, the ball dying left of the hole. What impressed even more was the manner in which each player struck her final drive. Both were hit with power and precision. Lorenzi, however, was longer, and her five iron to sit for another birdie provided the perfect coup de grace.

It completed for Lorenzi a final round of 70 for a winning aggregate of 284, which is 21 shots better than the score Jenny Lee Smith required to win this tournament in 1982, when last it was held on the Duchess course. This time, 305 was sufficient only for a share of 35th place.

That reflects the improvement made in playing standards and explains why Europe faces ready to tackle the Americans in a match which awaits still final confirmation, although it is likely to take place at Lake Nona, Florida, from November 16 to 18. It will be between teams of eight, with a Ryder Cup format of fourball, foursomes and singles, and the cup is likely to be named after either Joyce Wethered or Babe Didrikson Zaharias or both.

Joe Flanagan, the executive director of the WPGET, said: "There will be no prize-money, except for out-of-pocket expenses, but we will be looking for first-class treatment for the players. Tony Jacklin proved how important that is, as only then did Europe start to win. Other matters, such as the selection procedure, will only be announced after the match is confirmed."

The captain - Mickey Walker, Muriel Thomson and Vivien Saunders are candidates - should be given several wild cards as Laura Davies, Alison Nicholas, Pamela Wright, Maria Figueras-Dotti and Liselotte Neumann compete regularly on the US Tour. The top four in the Order of Merit and four selections would appear the optimum method.

Lorenzi, the No. 1 in Europe for the last two seasons, will have no problem qualifying through the Order of Merit and she is now on top again with £10,628. That in itself is a triumph, since it was only six weeks ago that she returned to playing, following five months rest because of tendonitis.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (top 10) or better unless stated: 284: M-L de Lorenzi (Fr), 74, 72, 68, 70; 287: J Lee (USA), 70, 73, 74, 70; 288: J Smith (USA), 71, 75, 70, 72; 289: S Strudwick (Aus), 73, 74, 75, 72; 290: C Dibnah (Aus), 74, 75, 71, 75; 291: D Mercer (NZ), 74, 75, 71, 75; 292: K Iro (Jpn), 75, 72, 71, 75; 293: P Bishop (W), 75, 72, 71, 75; 294: M Gregory (W), 75, 72, 71, 75; 295: S Edwards (A), 75, 72, 71, 75; 296: A Bishop (W), 75, 72, 71, 75; 297: D Mercer (NZ), 75, 72, 71, 75; 298: K Iro (Jpn), 75, 72, 71, 75; 299: P Bishop (W), 75, 72, 71, 75; 300: M Gregory (W), 75, 72, 71, 75.

## Reid risks fine to play in Australia

DALE Reid, who has won more tournaments than any other player on the Women Professional Golfers' European Tour (WPGET), is to risk a substantial fine by playing in Australia next month without a release (Mitchell Platts writes).

Reid has expected to join Suzanne Strudwick and the Australians, Corinne Dibnah, Denise Hutton and Karen Lunn, in the Daily Challenge One at Paradise Pains from May 13, which means all will miss the prestigious Hennessy Cup at St Germain.

Paris. Daijyo are putting up £10,000, compared with the £90,000 of Hennessy, and the Daily Challenge Two, in which all five will play one week later, is worth another £100,000.

Joe Flanagan, the executive director of the WPGET, said: "The board feels very strongly about their decision. I cannot say what the fine will be, but I can stress it will be substantial. They are all members of our Tour and they know the importance of supporting a sponsor or like Hennessy."

## ATHLETICS

## Welcome win for men of Tipton

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

TIPTON Harriers avenged their defeat by Wolverhampton and Blisdon AC in the Midlands 12-stage road relay championship last month when they won the national title at Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, on Saturday.

For one athlete, Mark Burnhope, there was more to it than a A.A.A. championship gold medal. Burnhope has consulted lawyers with a view to fighting legal action being taken against him by the Wolverhampton chairman, Ted Bradley.

His appearance at Tipton has been because of injury. He missed the Midlands relay but was recalled on Saturday. His performance on the first leg for Tipton put Wolverhampton so far behind that the Midlands champions spent the next 3½ hours knowing that only injury to a Tipton athlete would let them in for victory.

Burnhope was tenth in the London Marathon in 1985. "Because of my injuries I have not done anything in the last five years and I am surprised Tipton put me into the team," he said. He was brought in only because Paul Fowler put racing his pigeons before racing him.

Burnhope added that it was "a nice little thing to do the bargain" that it had been the club which he had left in acrimonious circumstances that he had

helped to force into the runners-up position.

In finishing ninth on the first stage, Burnhope distanced Wolverhampton, represented by his brother-in-law, Paul Cadman, who was 33rd, by almost two minutes. Andy Holden, Andy Wilton, Ron Bentley and Lee Woolridge combined to lift them into first place by the beginning of the sixth leg; Pet Martin, John Harizan, Steve Portman, Tony Milosorov, John Wheway, Chris Sweeney and Eddie Wedderburn extended their lead by the finish to almost 3½ minutes.

Tipton's victory was their fifth in seven years and was much welcomed after their narrow defeats in the national men's cross country championship, in which they lost by five points to Vally Harriers, and the Midlands relay, in which Wolverhampton had just five seconds in hand.

Tipton recorded 4hr 03min 43sec for the 50½ miles; Wolverhampton, more by consistency than any exceptional individual performance, progressed into second, recording 4:07:09. The outstanding individual was Rob Denmark, of Gateshead Harriers, who moved ahead of Ian Stewart, Ray Smedley and Sebastian Cox and into third place in the short stage all-time list.

RESULTS: 1. Tipton, 4hr 03min 43sec; 2. Wolverhampton and Blisdon AC, 4:07:09; 3. Coventry, 4:07:22; 4. Shrewsbury Harriers, 4:08:25; 5. Bristol, 4:12:26; 6. Salford, 4:18:43. Fastest stages: Short 8 miles 08 sec; 10 miles 11:05 sec; 12 miles 13:25 sec; 14 miles 15:45 sec; 16 miles 18:05 sec; 18 miles 20:25 sec; 20 miles 22:45 sec; 22 miles 25:05 sec; 24 miles 27:25 sec; 26 miles 29:45 sec; 28 miles 32:05 sec; 30 miles 34:25 sec; 32 miles 36:45 sec; 34 miles 39:05 sec; 36 miles 41:25 sec; 38 miles 43:45 sec; 40 miles 46:05 sec; 42 miles 48:25 sec; 44 miles 50:45 sec; 46 miles 53:05 sec; 48 miles 55:25 sec; 50 miles 57:45 sec; 52 miles 59:05 sec; 54 miles 61:25 sec; 56 miles 63:45 sec; 58 miles 66:05 sec; 60 miles 68:25 sec; 62 miles 70:45 sec; 64 miles 73:05 sec; 66 miles 75:25 sec; 68 miles 77:45 sec; 70 miles 80:05 sec; 72 miles 82:25 sec; 74 miles 84:45 sec; 76 miles 87:05 sec; 78 miles 89:25 sec; 80 miles 91:45 sec; 82 miles 94:05 sec; 84 miles 96:25 sec; 86 miles 98:45 sec; 88 miles 101:05 sec; 90 miles 103:25 sec; 92 miles 105:45 sec; 94 miles 108:05 sec; 96 miles 110:25 sec; 98 miles 112:45 sec; 100 miles 115:05 sec; 102 miles 117:25 sec; 104 miles 119:45 sec; 106 miles 122:05 sec; 108 miles 124:25 sec; 110 miles 126:45 sec; 112 miles 129:05 sec; 114 miles 131:25 sec; 116 miles 133:45 sec; 118 miles 136:05 sec; 120 miles 138:25 sec; 122 miles 140:45 sec; 124 miles 143:05 sec; 126 miles 145:25 sec; 128 miles 147:45 sec; 130 miles 150:05 sec; 132 miles 152:25 sec; 134 miles 154:45 sec; 136 miles 157:05 sec; 138 miles 159:25 sec; 140 miles 161:45 sec; 142 miles 164:05 sec; 144 miles 166:25 sec; 146 miles 168:45 sec; 148 miles 171:05 sec; 150 miles 173:25 sec; 152 miles 175:45 sec; 154 miles 178:05 sec; 156 miles 180:25 sec; 158 miles 182:45 sec; 160 miles 185:05 sec; 162 miles 187:25 sec; 164 miles 189:45 sec; 166 miles 192:05 sec; 168 miles 194:25 sec; 170 miles 196:45 sec; 172 miles 199:05 sec; 174 miles 201:25 sec; 176 miles 203:45 sec; 178 miles 206:05 sec; 180 miles 208:25 sec; 182 miles 210:45 sec; 184 miles 213:05 sec; 186 miles 215:25 sec; 188 miles 217:45 sec; 190 miles 220:05 sec; 192 miles 222:25 sec; 194 miles 224:45 sec; 196 miles 229:05 sec; 200 miles 233:25 sec; 202 miles 235:45 sec; 204 miles 238:05 sec; 206 miles 240:25 sec; 208 miles 242:45 sec; 210 miles 245:05 sec; 212 miles 247:25 sec; 214 miles 249:45 sec; 216 miles 252:05 sec; 218 miles 254:25 sec; 220 miles 256:45 sec; 222 miles 259:05 sec; 224 miles 261:25 sec; 226 miles 263:45 sec; 228 miles 266:05 sec; 230 miles 268:25 sec; 232 miles 270:45 sec; 234 miles 273:05 sec; 236 miles 275:25 sec; 238 miles 277:45 sec; 240 miles 280:05 sec; 242 miles 282:25 sec; 244 miles 284:45 sec; 246 miles 287:05 sec; 248 miles 289:25 sec; 250 miles 291:45 sec; 252 miles 294:05 sec; 254 miles 296:25 sec; 256 miles 298:45 sec; 258 miles 301:05 sec; 260 miles 303:25 sec; 262 miles 305:45 sec; 264 miles 308:05 sec; 266 miles 310:25 sec; 268 miles 312:45 sec; 270 miles 315:05 sec; 272 miles 317:25 sec; 274 miles 319:45 sec; 276 miles 322:05 sec; 278 miles 324:25 sec; 280 miles 326:45 sec; 282 miles 329:05 sec; 284 miles 331:25 sec; 286 miles 333:45 sec; 288 miles 336:05 sec; 290 miles 338:25 sec; 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932 miles 1087:25 sec; 934 miles 1089:45 sec; 936 miles 1092:05 sec; 938 miles 1094:25 sec; 940 miles 1096:45 sec; 942 miles 1099:05 sec; 944 miles 1101:25 sec; 946 miles 1103:45 sec; 948 miles 1106:05 sec; 950 miles 1108:25 sec; 952 miles 1110:45 sec; 954 miles 1113:05 sec; 956 miles 1115:25 sec; 958 miles 1117:45 sec; 960 miles 1120:05 sec; 962 miles 1122:25 sec; 964 miles 1124:45 sec; 966 miles 1127:05 sec; 968 miles 1129:25 sec; 970 miles 1131:45 sec; 972 miles 1134:05 sec; 974 miles 1136:25 sec; 976 miles 1138:45 sec; 978 miles 1141:05 sec; 980 miles 1143:25 sec; 982 miles 1145:45 sec; 984 miles 1148:05 sec; 986 miles 1150:25 sec; 988 miles 1152:45 sec; 990 miles 1155:05 sec; 992 miles 1157:25



























# Potential is still lurking for a further tragedy



Yuh Myoung Woo, 24, of Korea, retained his World Boxing Association light-flyweight title on a split decision over Leo Gomez, 26, of Venezuela, in Seoul yesterday.